

Babraham Parish Council: Minutes 8th Feb 2024

Present:

Denise Dear: Chair

Jane Goody

Charlotte Boast

Chris Chapman (BRC)

Anne Charteris: Clerk

	Part I: Non-Confidential Information
2402/01	<p>To receive and approve apologies for absence Stuart Laurie and Richard Bandy and Cllr Peter McDonald had sent apologies</p>
2402/02	<p>To receive members' declaration of interest for items on this agenda None declared</p>
2402/03	<p>To sign and approve minutes of meeting dated 11th Jan 2024 The Minutes were approved by all and signed off as correct.</p>
2402/04	<p>Exclusion of the public To determine which items, if any, from Part 1 of the Agenda should be taken with the public excluded</p>
2402/05	<p>Report from South Cambridgeshire District Councillor P McDonald The report can be found in full on the website, but in brief:</p> <p><u>Axis Land Partnerships proposal</u> On 29 January, the development company Axis Land Partnerships published proposals for a large housing development to the West of the A10 at Foxton Station. The outline proposals included 1500 houses, a country park, education and employment facilities and a bypass for the A10/railway crossing</p> <p><u>Action on Energy</u> The District Council is urging residents to make use of energy-saving support that they are entitled to, after the recent rise in the energy price cap. In January, energy bills for a typical household using gas and electricity rose by £94 a year. The next price cap will be announced on 23 February</p> <p><u>Electrical appliances recycling bin</u> In December, the Greater Cambridge Shared Waste Service team launched a new initiative to make recycling small electrical appliances easier. We now have a roaming pink bin which will visit suitable temporary locations so that you can have a clear-out or purge your cupboards of old cables you have been meaning to recycle. The pink bin was initially deployed in Cottenham, in the village hall car park, and then in Girton, in both cases for several weeks. If you would like it to visit your village, please contact vicky.lacey@scambs.gov.uk .</p> <p><u>Ermine Street Housing</u> The Council is proposing to make a further investment in its wholly-owned company Ermine Street Housing of up to £20 million. Ermine Street Housing owns and rents out approximately 530 properties in and around Cambridgeshire and leases around 190 properties from the Ministry of Defence. It provides the Council with a regular income stream that helps to reduce its dependence on government funding and Council Tax</p> <p><u>Bus Lane Enforcement</u> Residents are being invited to have their say about two proposed applications for civil powers to enforce bus lane and bus gate restrictions in South Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire.</p>

2402/06	<p>Currently, bus lane and bus gate restrictions can only be enforced by the police with fixed penalty notices resulting in fines or endorsement points. As part of the proposed changes, Cambridgeshire County Council is applying to the Department for Transport (DfT) to transfer enforcement responsibilities from the police to the local authority regarding bus lane and bus gate regulations in the districts of South Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire.</p> <p><u>Old Shire Hall</u></p> <p>Bids are invited for the lease or sale of part of the Shire Hall site in Cambridge, after the previous preferred bidder was unable to continue their interest. In a city-centre location, Shire Hall had been the Cambridgeshire County Council's headquarters since the 1930s, but the site itself was the seat of Government in Cambridge for over 1,000 years. Previously the site of two medieval castles, the current building was the county council's administrative centre from its completion in 1933 until 2022, when the council relocated to Alconbury as part of its planned savings programme. The property is being marketed by BNP Paribas Real Estate from 29 January 2024 and comprises the original Shire Hall, the Octagon the Old Police Station, Castle Lodge and public car parking.</p> <p><u>Adults & Learning Support</u></p> <p>Continued investment in helping adults with learning and physical difficulties and mental health issues – and older people - was central to budget proposals supported by the county council's Adults and Health Committee. Proposed measures include helping adults with learning difficulties, physical difficulties and mental health issues – along with older people – to enjoy healthy, safe and independent lives. For more information on the council's proposals for the coming year see: Consultation begins on Cambridgeshire budget proposals ahead of 'toughest year' for local councils - Cambridgeshire County Council</p> <p>Report from Cambridgeshire County Councillors Brian Milnes and Maria King</p> <p>The report can be found in full on the website, but in brief:</p> <p>Budget</p> <p>On Tuesday 30 January the county council's Strategy, Resources & Performance Committee made its final budget recommendation for Full Council to debate on Tuesday 13 February. The county council's various policy committees have scrutinised the draft budget proposals, and three of them—Communities Social Mobility & Inclusion, Environment & Green Investment, and Highways & Transport Committee—have all asked that the Strategy, Resources & Performance Committee give consideration to increasing the funding available for Emergency Planning, in view of the increase in the frequency and severity of extreme weather leading to flooding. Overall, as expected, pressures on the budget come mostly from adult and children social care, highways and supporting children with special needs and disabilities. However our prudent financial planning coupled with a maximum permitted council tax rise and a recently announced extra government support gives confidence that the Council will continue to provide all its statutory services.</p> <p>PUBLIC HEALTH</p> <p>Measles</p> <p>Measles cases have been rising since last November, with the West Midlands seeing more than 200 confirmed cases, the largest outbreak outside London. The UK Health Security Agency declared the outbreak a national incident on 19 January 2024.</p>
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	<p>Measles is highly infectious. Nine out of ten unvaccinated children can catch measles if someone in their class has it. It can be severe, particularly in the immunosuppressed and infants, and can be more severe in pregnancy. It can be mild for some children, but one in five will require a hospital visit. At its worst it can lead to complications such as meningitis and pneumonia and can in rare cases be fatal.</p> <p>ENVIRONMENT & GREEN INVESTMENT</p> <p>Carbon footprint</p> <p>The Environment & Green Investment Committee last month received the council's carbon footprint report for 2022/23. As usual, this reports on the council's carbon emissions, and the carbon emissions of the county of Cambridgeshire as a whole. The Council's total known greenhouse gas emissions in 2022-23 amounted to 99,104 tonnes CO₂e. The largest share, nearly sixty per cent, was from waste, with construction materials second at nineteen per cent, and transport third at ten per cent. This is 46 per cent lower than the council's baseline year of 2018/19.</p> <p>HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORT</p> <p>Weeds policy</p> <p>The council's Highways & Transport Committee has changed its policy on highways weed spraying. It will now be reverting to regular twice-yearly weed killing in the places where it used to do this before last year's policy change.</p> <p>Communities which do not want chemical weed spraying in their area will however be able to opt out in favour of manual weed removal by volunteers.</p> <p>Active travel maintenance</p> <p>The Highways & Transport Committee has approved changes to the Highways Operational Standards to improve recognition of, and response to, faults on cycleways and footways. These changes will help ensure a safe environment for cyclists and pedestrians, encouraging and facilitating active travel.</p>
2402/07	<p>Report from Babraham Research Campus (BRC) representative</p> <p>The new building has now been completed and handed over to be made ready for new tenants, it is fully let. Two companies have moved up from existing smaller buildings on the Campus and leases begin at the end of February.</p> <p>Church Lane- the verges have been cut, responsibility for these being maintained has been taken on by BRC.</p> <p>Fencing along the river will be replaced over the forthcoming year where it has deteriorated and posts have rotted.</p> <p>The permissive path will be closed off in sections over the next few months to permit pollarding of trees.</p> <p>Ivy on walls has been programmed in for removal in March.</p> <p>Path repairs will include tree bark mulching.</p> <p>The Vision for the campus (presented to the Neighbourhood Plan) will include new R&D facilities at the roundabout end of the site, some old buildings will be removed from the centre of campus to be replaced by new facilities and the houses on the Close are due to be re-developed. There will also be community conservation areas included within the land south of the river adjacent to the High Street. The Local Plan process has been pushed back and the next steps for BRC is to consider to maybe bring planning applications forward whilst the Local Plan remains in process.</p>
2402/08	Cheveley Park Development Plans. Nothing to report.
2402/09	Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP) Cambridge South East Transport (CSET) Nothing to report.
2402/10	Public participation time – 15 minutes allowed . No public present.

2402/11	<p>Forest Garden Project.</p> <p>Steering group has been formed with representatives from the PC, Campus, the village and Hannah Thomas and Emma Adeane.</p> <p>Terms of reference are being drawn up with the view of level of Governance required. These will state what is expected by the Campus from the Forest Garden. There are 5 different possible models, need to include liability, decision making, financial elements. There is one preferred option. Should this be run with no lease ownership, or with some provenance such as the Pocket Park? Need to find out if the land is OK to be leased, who is liable, insurance etc. It is suggested that the lease be held by the PC and financial activity run through the PC. The steering Group would set out ideas, answer to the PC on a monthly basis, this would give a robust governance model.</p> <p>It was proposed that there would be a discussion at the next PC meeting in March to settle on Terms of reference. If agreed, then next stage is to set up the lease. Liability would sit with the PC and under the PC insurance, there is one year left of funding, handover expected by the end of the year.</p> <p>Sustainable foraging garden is for the village to use in the long term, a strong fence was needed to stop animal damage. Environment Agency were consulted about the access to the river.</p> <p>Rules set by BRC have been followed,</p>																					
2402/12	<p>Neighbourhood Plan. Nothing to report.</p>																					
2402/13	<p>Clerks salary.</p> <p>Auditor commented that this has not been increased since Clerk started in May 2021. Clerk will provide latest salary scale from NALC and details of back pay provided by Pay Roll provider. It was proposed by DD and all in favour to pay back pay and that salary to be reviewed on an annual basis from now on, when new scales figures provided by NALC.</p>																					
2402/14	<p>General Village Matters and new items for discussion:</p> <p>Local Highway Improvement grant: Clerk has applied for the pavement to be repaired from the George to Home Farm turning.</p> <p>Grange Farm development proposition https://oc2.greatercambridgeplanning.org/download/attachment/1794642</p> <p>This was discussed, however still very early in the planning, but will be watched as things develop.</p> <p>Yellow lines outside the school- very difficult to see and covered by leaves, Clerk to contact Highways to see about getting cleared.</p>																					
	<p>FINANCE</p>																					
2402/15	<p>Receipts and Transfers (as of 2nd Feb 2024)</p>																					
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- A full list of payments was circulated and reviewed at the meeting, approved and signed off.

2402/18 Balances and Bank Reconciliation at 2nd Feb 2024

Unity Current A/C balance	£10,691.64
Unity Savings A/C balance	£142,551.00
Cambridge Building Society	£80,361.37
TOTAL	£233,604.01

PLANNING

2402/19 New Applications.

Local Planning Authority: South Cambridgeshire District Council

Proposal: S73 to vary condition 2 (approved drawings) of ref: S/0718/18/FL (Conversion of existing barn and hovel to new 2 bed house) for the following amendments: Change position of the garage to protect an existing mature tree, new solar panels east roofslope, revised internal mezzanine position in the main barn, revised fenestration and rooflight position, new window to north elevation, new sunpipes, to north roof slope.

Site address: The Black Barn High Street Babraham

Reference: 23/04937/S73

Public Access Link: <https://applications.greatercambridgeplanning.org/online-applications/PLAN/23/04937/S73>

Following discussion, PC had the following questions:

Could we have clarification on changing the position of the garage as it seems already to be in place.

Could we have clarification on the Listed Building status of the Black Barn

Could we therefore have clarification on the permission for solar panelling on a Listed Building.

2402/20 Planning decisions: None

2402/21 Correspondence.

Complaint re thorns and twigs on cycle paths, Clerk to contact Council.

2402/22 Items for inclusion in the next meeting

Could something be put in the Pocket Park for children to play on eg a wooden Trim Trail?

Date of next meeting: Thursday 14th March 2024

2402/23 Part II: Confidential Information

Exclusion of the Press and the Public: To resolve that in accordance with Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and by reason of the confidential nature of the remainder of the business, the Press and the Public be excluded from the meeting.

Signature: *Anne Charteris* 20th Feb 2024

10 Duxford Road, Hinxton, Saffron Walden, Essex, CB10 1RB
01799 531827