**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 7th March 2022 at 7.30pm in the Reading Room.**

Present: Ray Vidler (Chairman), Bridget Durham (Vice Chair), Ian Ashbridge, John Garrod, Faye Parker, Constantine Pagonis, Jessica Ashbridge (clerk).

In Attendance: County Councillor Henry Batchelor in part.

1. **Chairman’s Welcome –** The Chairman welcomed those present.
2. **To accept apologies and reasons for absence –** Apologies were accepted from Cllr Hubbard due to work commitments **P: Cllr Vidler, S: Cllr Durham, All in fav.**
3. **To make any declarations of interest –** To declare any disclosable pecuniary interests, personal interests, or personal and prejudicial interests – Cllr Ashbridge declared a pecuniary interest in 12.4.
4. **Public Participation Session** – None.
5. **To approve minutes-** For the meeting of Weston Colville Parish Council on 5th January 2022 – two changes were made – 8.4 trees had been planted by Cllr Hubbard, 8.1 it was noted the works to Church End were incomplete. **P: Cllr Vidler, S: Cllr Pagonis All in fav.**
6. **District and County Council reports and items of interest** – Report was received (appended). Cllr Batchelor added for SCDC that the Community Chest fund has increased to up to £2,000 per application. The ZCC grant applications were opening again. There were proposals for the bin lorry fleet to be replaced with electric lorries, and a solar plant to be built in Waterbeach, which would power the lorries. CCC – a new Highways Officer, Bradley Southwell, had been appointed, and would hopefully be attending the joint parishes meeting. Cllr Batchelor advised that there should be an indication about the LHI bid towards the end of March, and also that the Boundary Commission were looking at changing the current division of MP areas, although nothing would be finalised until the next General Election. There would be road resurfacing on Mill Hill.
7. **Planning**

**SCDC Applications:**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Planning reference** | **Address** | **Proposal** | **Decision** |
| **22/00600/S73** **It was determined to support the application without further comments** | Ivy House, The Green Weston Colville CB21 5NT | S73 variation of condition 2 (Approved plans) of planning permission 21/00187/FUL (Demolition of the existing buildings and the erection of 4 No. dwellings, remodeled access and associated infrastructure) remodeling of plot 2 and parking arrangements to plots 1 and 2. | **Awaiting Decision** |

1. **Election 2022 –** The Clerk delivered nomination papers to the Cllrs after the meeting, requesting that they were returned by 28th March. The Clerk would take them to the District Council Offices when the nomination period is open between 28th March – 4th April.
2. **Matters In hand / Arising since last meeting**
	1. **Flooding** – A Parishioner had raised concerns about flooding, it was determined that the roadside ditch was their responsibility under riparian rights. Grips had been dug, but these had been done poorly. They had been reported to Dennis Vacher. Cllrs Durham and Garrod had also requested that others were dug, but had not had a reply. The pots and gulleys on Mill Hill had had some work done on 26th February, but 4 were still blocked. Cllr Batchelor was asked to enquire when they would be returning. Cllr Garrod reported that the wrong grit bin for storage had been sent, he was trying to arrange an exchange, there was also an axel missing from the sack barrow, so he was contacting the Environment Agency. The latest Flood Plan was on the website.
	2. **SID and LHI** – Cllr Ashbridge had presented to the LHI panel, and was awaiting the results. Cllrs Ashbridge and Pagonis would be working on the questionnaire for parishioners regarding road safety. Cllr Vidler had learnt that the Thurlow Estate were still willing to contribute financially towards traffic calming.
	3. **Footpaths –** None.
	4. **Platinum Jubilee event** – A discussion was held about having a beacon, but it could not be placed at the war memorial. A potential timetable was discussed – Thursday night beacon/bonfire lit, the Flower Festival in the Church would run over the whole long weekend, Saturday evening a concert in the Church, Sunday would be the main day of activities with a fun run, Church Service, dedication of a tree in the Churchyard, a fun dog show, Children’s fancy dress, BBQ and bar plus other activities. It was established there was a £900 budget, due to money being unspent at the Jubilee in 2012. Cllrs Durham and Ashbridge would continue to coordinate with the PCC and Reading Room.
	5. **Training –** It was noted that Cllr Vidler attended Chairman Training through CAPALC on 15th February.
	6. **Dedication for Allen Scott** – It was noted that a plaque had been installed by Cllr Hubbard at the birch tree by the pond.
3. **Risk Assessment/Health and Safety –** The defibrillator was rescue ready on 7th March. Road safety was being monitored.
4. **Playground –** Cllr Hubbard had sourced the part for the swing at Church End.
5. **Finance –**
	1. **To Approve cheques –** The cheques were approved. It was determined to pay the CAPALC subscription on 1st April. **P: Cllr Durham, S: Cllr Parker, Abstain: 1, 5 in fav.**
	2. **Budget –** It was proposed that the Platinum Jubilee would have £500 budgeted **P: Cllr Durham, S: Cllr Pagonis All in fav.** Street lighting would be increased to £250, grass cutting reduced to £3,000. Total expenditure was budgeted at £13,312 **P: Cllr Vidler, S: Cllr Ashbridge, All in fav.**
	3. **Parish Nurse Scheme –** It was determined to move this to the May APM and invite representatives to attend and expand on the scheme.
	4. **Pay Scales -** 2021/2 Pay agreement

NALC were advised by LGA colleagues that “Agreement has been reached on the pay award for local government services (‘Green Book’) employees, covering the period 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022.” NALC would circulate the revised pay scales for our sector later this week. The overall increase generally is 1.75%, though the first pay point has been increased to reflect the new national living wage rate. It was determined to increase the Clerk’s hourly rate of pay to £11.06 in line with the payscales. **P: Cllr Vidler, S: Cllr Garrod, Abstain: 1, 5 in fav.** It was determined to pay the Clerk £44.46 as back pay to April 2021. **P: Cllr Vidler, S: Cllr Durham, Abstain: 1, 5 in fav.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Credit Received VAT reclaim 4th January 2022** | £437.61 |
| **Wages s/o**  | £211.19 |
| **Balance at Lloyds Bank on 26th January 2022** | £16,781.32 |

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Cheque number** | **Detail and Date** |  | **Amount** | **VAT** |
| D/D | Street lighting  |  | £16.02 |  |
| 807 | CAPALC – Chairmanship Training Delivered ViaZoom - 15th February 2022 |  | £50 |  |
| 808 | CAPALC Affiliation Fees – 2022/23 |  | £253.14 |  |
| - | Age UK Donation – 2021 Briggs Gift |  | £250 |  |
| 809 | Clerk’s back pay  |  | £44.46 |  |
| **Total** |  |  | £597.60 |  |
|  | **Total of Outstanding Cheques**  |  |  |  |
|  | **After above Cheques**  |  | **£16,417.70** |  |

1. **Matters for next Agenda –** Parish Nurse donation, new benches.

**Date of Next Meeting: 11th May**

**Dates of Parish Council meetings in 2022 are: 4th April (planning), 11th May AGM/APM, 6th June (planning), 4th July, 1st August (planning), 5th September, 3rd October (planning), 7th November, 5th December (planning).**

**District and County Councillor’s Report – March 2022**

**Budgets**

During February both the County and District Councils set their budgets for the forthcoming municipal year.

The main headline, that most people will be interested in is that the council decided to increase their share of Council Tax by a total of 4.99%, which is made up of 1.99% for general services and 3% for Adult Social Care. In real money this equates to – 90p per week for band A homes, £1.04 per week for band B, £1.19 per week for band C and £1.34 per week for band D. There is support available for those families who are struggling financially – for example the household support fund mentioned below.

The District Council agreed to limit their Council Tax rise to £5 per year. This equates to 10p per week for houses that fall within a band D and scales up and down from there, dependant on banding.

**Ukrainian Situation**

With may people asking for ways that they can help the situation in Ukraine, the District Council are suggesting that if people wish to support, this is best directed towards the following organisations:

* The British Red Cross – provides food, medicine, clothing and shelter
* The UNHCR refugee agency – funds emergency shelters, repairs to damaged homes, psychological assistance and clothing
* UNICEF – helps ensure families have clean water and food
* Save the Children – provides cash assistance, food and support to other refugees crossing into Romania and Lithuania

**Flood Risk Management Strategy**

The County Council has recently approved their strategy towards flood risk management for the next 5 years. Thank you to all those that took the time to feed into this document whilst going through its inception. The final strategy can be viewed here under agenda item 6 - <https://cambridgeshire.cmis.uk.com/ccc_live/Meetings/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/1820/Committee/67/Default.aspx>

**Community Chest Fund**

Another existing fund that is opening a new round of bidding, with some good news, the amount groups are able to bid for has doubled from £1,000 to £2,000 per group. Full criteria and applications can be found at <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/community-safety-and-health/grants/community-chest-grants/> - the District Council recently extended the criteria of the grant to allow grants for the Queen’s Jubilee celebrations.

**Household Support Fund**

There is a support fund available from the County Council that is aimed at supporting families with a below average income, through the more difficult winter months. There is a fair amount of money in the pot at the moment and the fund will remain open until March 2022. Eligibility criteria and application form can be found here - <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/coronavirus/household-support-fund>

**Business Covid Grants**

The government have released a new batch of Covid related support grants for businesses, primarily in the hospitality sector, to apply for to assist them ‘restarting’ after a period of inconsistent trading. Applications are made through the District Council and full detail can be found here - <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/business-can-apply-now-for-latest-support-grants/>

**County Council Farm Holdings**

The County Council owns lots of rural estate in Cambridgeshire. They are now looking for applicants for tenancy on these parcels of land. The main thrust of the lease will be to cultivate some sort of business, not necessarily agriculture related. It’s a very interesting opportunity for those that are looking to start their own business. Full detail can be found here - <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/news/applications-open-for-farm-holdings-on-councils-rural-estate>

**Parking Enforcement**

The County and District Councils have officially begun the process of taking parking enforcement powers away from the Police and managing this themselves, as happens in Cambridge City. The next step is that the County Council have prepared an application to the Secretary of State to attempt to formalise this. We will keep you updated as this progresses.

**Solar Farm**

A solar farm is planned beside the waste depot in Waterbeach to help power bin lorries across Greater Cambridge.

The board of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority has agreed £2.7million funding towards the renewable energy plant while approving its budget last week.

Following successful trials with the first electric bin lorry, three more are now on order for delivery this year. Diesel fuel to power the existing fleet is the biggest single source of carbon emissions for South Cambs District Council.

The Greater Cambridge Shared Waste service - the partnership between South Cambridgeshire and Cambridge City Council that collects recycling and rubbish from around 127,000 households - applied for the funding towards the £4.2m project. The councils will fund the balance.

**Farmgate**

For those following the ‘Farmgate’ story in local media, which concerns a former County Councillor that abused their position within the council to bully and harass officers to get their way, has taken a significant step forward in that the full report into what occurred has now been published. For those interested, this can be read in full on the County Council website under Appendix B - <https://cambridgeshire.cmis.uk.com/ccc_live/Meetings/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/1742/Committee/10/Default.aspx>

Needless to say it has promoted many questions into some Councillors’ behaviour towards staff and has made the Council implement steps to ensure this behaviour will not be tolerated by officers or fellow councillors.

**A1307 Upgrades**

The next set of upgrades to be implemented on the A1307 is the safer crossing point at the Hildersham junction. This involves putting in a crossing that all non-motorised users (pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders) can use. This has begun already and will be fully completed in the summer.

**Contact Information**

District Council – Geoff Harvey – geoff.harvey@gmail.com

County Council – Henry Batchelor – henrybatchelor89@gmail.com