

Kingston Parish Council
Minutes of Meeting held at 8.00pm on 9 May 2019

James Clear, Chair (part time) (JCI)

Julie Conder, Chair (part time) (JCo)

Miki Ellar (ME)

Katherine Reid (KR)

Sue Dagleish (SD)

Peter Stokes, Clerk

Tumi Hawkins (SCDC)

Members of the public: Mike Beadman, Anne Beadman, Rachel Hooper, Rob Venn, Ian Smith

1. Apologies

1.1. Lina Nieto

2. Planning (see also Section 11)

2.1. S1502/19/FL Demolition of existing dwelling and outbuildings, erection of new dwelling at Armshold Farm, Tinkers Lane: following discussion it was agreed to support this application.

3. Election of Chair and Vice-chair

3.1. Chair: James Clear was proposed by Julie Conder and, being willing to stand, was unanimously elected.

3.2. Vice-Chair: Julie Conder was proposed by Miki Ellar and, being willing to stand, was unanimously elected.

3.3. Other posts: James Clear, Julie Conder and Katherine Reid agreed to continue in their posts of Open Spaces lead, Finance lead and Footpaths lead respectively. It was also agreed that as Peter Stokes is a member of the Village Hall Management Committee, he can take the post of KPC representative for that committee.

4. Minutes of last meeting

4.1. Accepted

5. Matters Arising

5.1. 3.1.1 Emergency Plan (JCo and SD): feedback from SCDC still awaited. SD to chase.
Action: SD.

5.2. 3.1.3 Painting of slide at playground: contractor is due to carry out work on 5 June. Playground will be closed for the day because of dust etc.

5.3. 3.1.5 Defibrillator for Kingston: this has now been installed on the right-hand side wall of the village hall. Training courses have been arranged and publicised in CPR and defibrillator familiarisation. The location of the defibrillator has been registered with the East of England Ambulance Service.

5.4. 3.1.6 Radar speed gun: a number of one-hour sessions of data collection have taken place. It was agreed that the Clerk would check to ensure a suitable range of times through the day and days through the week have been included, and arrange one or two more sessions if necessary.

5.5. 3.1.7 'Beauty' shop at Kingston Barns: the Planning Dept has confirmed that the change of use would require planning permission. Since it appears that planning permission has not been sought, this has been reported to the Planning Dept.

- 5.6. 4.3.2 Inspection of trees in Kingston: JCI checked trees in the village during the litterpick and no issues were found.
- 5.7. 4.3.3 Responsibility for trees on highway verges
- 5.7.1. The Clerk reported that he had established that trees on grass verges are generally the responsibility of the Highways Dept. Trees on the boundary line (eg hedge or fence) are the responsibility of the adjoining landowner.
- 5.7.2. The Clerk also reported that he had received useful information from the Highways Department which – In brief – states that it is illegal for an unauthorised person to place any object on the highway, which includes placing stones, logs etc to protect verges. Some discretion is exercised as many people like to keep verges cultivated and position objects to protect them from encroaching vehicles. The Clerk asked for clarification on what comprises ‘The Highway’ and was informed that although in general it will include grass verges up to a boundary feature such as a hedge, this is not always the case and each situation is treated on its merits.
- 5.8. 8.3 Cleaning village hall: the contract cleaner is now cleaning satisfactorily and this issue is now resolved.

6. Correspondence

- 6.1. Email re parking in Crane’s Lane: a delivery of heating oil had to be postponed because the delivery driver could not get past parked vehicles at the bottom of Crane’s Lane. The Clerk has made enquiries of CCC to see if they could widen the road, possibly following a KPC bid for funding under the LHI scheme, or had any other suggestions. CCC have replied to say that it was unlikely that funding could be provided and that a proposal was unlikely to gain enough ‘points’ under the LHI scheme. It was made clear that the problem is one for the householder to solve and residents do not have a right to park in the street in front of their houses. It was agreed that usually cars at the house in question are parked as neatly as is possible, and that since the problem only occasionally occurs, it is not acute and there was no practical action KPC could take. It is hoped that the problem will resolve itself in time as the number of car users there reduces.
- 6.2. Email re grass cutting of verges: a resident has requested that verges are cut later, especially in a cold spring, to give the cowslips a chance to set seed. Agreed that it was not reasonable to expect the County Council to do this except where a verge is protected. Agreed to check Bourn Road to see if the grass has been cut there, and whether or not the ‘protected verge’ signs are still in place.
- 6.3. Email from CCC advising that the arrangements for parishes to pay for the power supplied to their footway lamps are changing. More information will be provided in due course.

7. County Councillor’s report

- 7.1. No report

8. District Councillor’s report

- 8.1. See Appendix A.

9. Open Spaces report

- 9.1. JCI expressed concern that ash trees in the village seemed to be slow to come into leaf.

10. Clerk’s report

- 10.1. Bi-monthly report – previously circulated, see Appendix B.
- 10.2. Invoices for payment:
- 10.2.1. CAPALC subscription renewal £163.24: agreed for payment

10.2.2. Val Seekings internal audit £43.17: agreed for payment

10.3. 2018/19 Audit

10.3.1. Internal auditor's report: the auditor found that KPC has complied with internal controls requirements. The report was accepted

10.3.2. Approval of 2018/19 governance statements: these were agreed

10.3.3. Approval of 2018/19 accounts: these were approved

10.3.4. Agreement to claim 'exemption' from review by the external auditor: this was agreed.

10.4. Orchard tea party: agreed that this would be held, as in 2017, to coincide with Church Gift Day on 13 July. Suzy Stokes has agreed to organise a scone-making team. The VHMC to be asked to provide a bar as usual.

11. Planning

11.1. S/0926/19/FL Construction of car-port at The Barn, Paynes Farm, Field Road: agreed to support this application.

11.2. S/1257/19/TC Tree work at Green Ley, The Green: for information only.

11.3. S1502/19/FL Demolition of existing dwelling and outbuildings, erection of new dwelling at Armshold Farm, Tinkers Lane: see section 2.

11.4. S/1357/19/FL Erection of agricultural grain store on land to south west of Bourn Road.

11.4.1. James Clear as the applicant declared an interest so took no part in the discussion. Julie Conder took the Chair.

11.4.2. It was agreed that KPC supported the application.

12. Date of next meeting:

12.1. Annual Parish meeting: 16 May

12.2. Parish Council meeting: 9 July

Meeting ended at 21:30

Signed.....

Date.....

South Cambridgeshire District Council – Caldecote Ward

(comprises the Parishes of Caldecote, Childerley, Kingston, Bourn, Longstowe & Little Gransden)

Councillor's Monthly Report – May 2019

This report is for all the Ward, so please be aware that some of the content may not be relevant to your particular Parish.

1 Parklife 2019 Event – Family Fun Day Out

This year, Parklife is on Sunday 19th May. The event is our free family fun day run in partnership with Cambridge Sport Lakes Trust. Lots of activities will be available including mobile caving system, inflatable zorbs, archery, climbing walls, bouncy castles, balance and all ability bikes, bush craft and pond dipping. You may have to book some events in advance. Check out more details at <https://www.scams.gov.uk/sport-health-and-wellbeing/physical-activities/parklife/>

2 Planning

Thank you to those that took some time to respond to the various consultations that recently ended.

2.1 Village Design Guide (VDG)

The public consultation for the VDGs opened on 15 April 2019, and will run for 6 weeks concluding on Friday 31st May 2019. Drop-in events are taking place in each of the communities that are participating.

Thank you to all those that attended the drop-in event at Caldecote Village Hall. We look forward to receiving your feedback. You can read more and submit your comments on line at <https://www.scams.gov.uk/comment-on-village-design-guides/>

2.2 Greater Cambridge Local Plan

South Cambs and Cambridge City Council have started work on the new joint Greater Cambridge Local Plan to provide a sustainable vision for the future of the area. This includes planning for new housing and economic development to meet our needs and protect and enhance our environment. The 'Call for Sites' consultation that ran between the 11 February 2019 and 25 March 2019 was an early step in process of preparing the plan as it was to gather information on what land is available and suitable for development.

Several hundred sites were submitted, and the planning policy team will be examining those sites in more detail to determine if they would be suitable for use in the local plan. We expect that many of those sites will be dropped as unsuitable as the process of testing them against our defined criteria progresses. The list of all sites submitted will be published on the councils' website at a later date.

3 Housing

One of the aims of the LibDem administration is to increase the supply of housing that is truly affordable for everyone to live in (energy & water efficient, right place & time) with a target of building at least 70 new council houses per year.

3.1 New Housing Strategy

The Cabinet has approved the new joint housing strategy, created together with Cambridge City.

The strategy acknowledges the need for all types of housing – especially for the ageing population and those that wish to downsize, and also for younger people. This is an exciting new strategy and you can read more about it at

<https://www.scams.gov.uk/new-strategy-aims-to-increase-supply-of-housing-that-s-affordable-to-live-in/>

and download the strategy document at

<http://scams.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s110755/Appendix%20A%20-%20Housing%20Strategy%202019-2023.pdf>

3.2 Affordable Housing

The Council aims to build/acquire 70 new council houses per year and has so far in 2019 completed 28 new homes and purchased 6. The Council also recently signed a Heads of Terms agreement with Hill Estates to purchase 9 affordable homes on a site at Station Road, Foxton.

3.3 Best Kept Garden Competition 2019

Our annual gardening competition is now open for our housing tenants. It is a great way to showcase your gardening talents, as well as meeting like-minded & green fingered people. We have been running the annual gardening competition since 1981 and have continuously had a great reception with it. <https://www.scams.gov.uk/housing/garden-competition-2019>
The awards ceremony will be held on the 20 September at Scotsdales Garden Centre, Great Shelford

4 Environmental Services/Green Issues

Zero Carbon Communities grant scheme

The council has taken yet another step toward the goal of being green to our core and achieving zero carbon by 2050. We have launched a Zero Carbon Communities grant scheme, to provide funds to local groups, to help communities spread and increase awareness of what it entails and how to make changes in daily lives to move toward the zero carbon lifestyle. It will also go towards projects that will help in achieving this objective including but not limited to community energy projects (solar, wind etc.), electric vehicle charging points, tackling fuel poverty, projects that encourage walking and cycling etc.

The proposed allocation of funds is £90,000 for the 2019/20 year and is allocated from the business rates we receive from renewable energy sites (solar farms etc.). Some of those rates is set aside for for use for this type of projects.

Communities will be invited to bid for grants of between £1,000 and £15,000 through parish councils and non-profit organisations based in the District.

More information is available on the council website at <https://www.scams.gov.uk/proposals-to-help-communities-target-zero-carbon-announced/>.

5 Business and Finance

5.1 Recruitment

As one of the fastest growing areas of the country, the Council is looking for more staff to help deliver services to residents and businesses.

Specifically, we are looking for two full time highly motivated, forward thinking Environmental Health Practitioners who are problem solvers; with technical service expertise who can generate new ways of working, and commercial ideas into reality. We are also on the lookout for drivers for our bin lorries.

We are putting in place measures to improve staff pay and conditions which has historically been squeezed. So pay has been increased by 3% over the past three months, while ensuring that no South Cambridgeshire employee earns less than the real living wage. Other enhancements include apprenticeship schemes, discounts for staff (for example on public transport) and the accreditation of the council as a Disability Confident employer and an officially recognised disabled friendly employer.

5.2 Business

We want to encourage businesses to grow and to give small businesses the help they need to be able to compete for businesses from the council. The council is therefore holding a tendering workshop on 22nd May, led by the Council's procurement officer. Find out more on our regular business newsletter at

<https://mailchi.mp/c109cb655a50/open-for-business-april>

5.3 “My South Cambs” Customer Portal

Please remember the new web based SCDC customer portal is now live. It will enable the Council to provide information to residents in more efficient slimlined way. You can access the new portal either from the South Cambs Council homepage or on <https://mysouthcambs.scams.gov.uk>. Create your own account using e-mail, facebook, Google etc., then use it to report issues, ask questions, obtain information on all council services and also to track progress of enquiries, We are still working on it so we would welcome your feedback and ideas.

6 Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority

Following the disappearance of the CPCA Chief exec, the Mayor together with a number of CPCA board members including Cllr Bridget Smith the Leader of SCDC, recently conducted interviews which lasted about 5 hours.

Afterwards, the Mayor then decided that he did not want any of the candidates and subsequently stated that he wanted his 2 current interims to remain in post for the foreseeable future. This is a concern because one of these people is also the CEO of East Cambs District Council, in itself a full time job. It is our view that the CPCA CEO position is a huge job which needs the undivided attention of a really high calibre person.

7 Transport

7.1 CAM Metro

The Mayor's CAM Metro project, which aims to run largely off road using wheeled, tram style vehicles out to the furthest reaches of South Cambridgeshire and beyond (St Neots, Haverhill) has been costed at a staggering £4 billion. We don't know where the money is going to come from!

7.2 A10 Dualling

In the meantime, the Leader Cllr Smith, has persuaded the Combined Authority to include a project for upgrading all of the A10 junctions alongside their preferred project to dual the whole road. The complete dualling is expected to cost up to £500m and it is difficult to see where the funding will come from as the A10 is not even a trunk road.

Anyone who travels on that road knows that congestion and safety is a huge issue and so a more modest (under £100m) project which would deliver considerable improvements at the main junctions seems like a sensible compromise. The CPCA is now working on the business cases will for both projects.

7.3 New Bus Users Group for Cambridge and South Cambs

The Cambridge Area Bus Users (CABU), an affiliate of Bus Users UK: seeks to represent, and campaign on behalf of, bus passengers in and around Cambridge and is independent of any political party. If you would like to have a voice in the debate about public transport you can join this new users group. It is determined to force the Mayor and the bus operators to improve services from and to our villages. Email: secretary.cabu@gmail.com.

8 Casework

Please do feel free to contact me with comments, questions, problems, reports, suggestions or complaints to do with SCDC services.

If you are having any issues with housing, housing repairs, planning, benefits, council tax, bin collection, environmental health etc, don't fight it on your own, I am available to help you to get the best outcome possible for your situation.

Tumi

Tumi Hawkins
2 May 2019

Email me @:	tumi@tumihawkins.org.uk
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Appendix B			
Financial report 09 May 2019			
N.B. All figures exclude VAT			
Item	Budget 2019/20 £	Expenditure YTD £	Budget minus expenditure YTD £
Grass and Hedge cutting	2087	-30	2117
Insurance	402	0	402
Clerk's salary	1250	124	1126
Grants (section 137)	991	0	991
Village Hall upgrade	1288	644	644
Audit fees	44	0	44
Village asset maintenance	750	0	750
Subscriptions	368	0	368
Parish Magazine	521	0	521
Footpath lighting	201	0	201
Miscellaneous and expenses	1500	35	1465
Income other than precept	-150	-90	-60
Total	9251	683	
Bank balances	Current account:	5922	
	Deposit account:	12636	
S106 money (included in above)	'Open space'	0	
	'Community facility'	945	