

## Kingston Annual Parish Meeting

7.30pm on Tuesday 21<sup>th</sup> May 2024 in the Village Hall

### Agenda

1. Chair of Parish Council Report – Sue Dagleish, Parish Chair
2. Transport Report – Julie Conder, Parish Councillor
3. Open Spaces report – Mark Nicholls, Parish Councillor
4. Clerk’s Report – presented by Sue Dagleish
5. District Councillor Report – Tumi Hawkins, South Cambridgeshire District Councillor
6. County Councillor Report – Michael Atkins, Hardwick Division County Councillor
7. Kingston Village Hall Management Committee - Paul Wright, Village Hall Management Committee Chair
8. Kingston Poor Charity – Peter Reynolds, Trustee
9. Parochial Church Council – Peter Reynolds, Secretary - Kingston Parish Church
10. Open Forum

# **Kingston Annual Parish Meeting**

## **Minutes of Meeting Held at 7.30pm on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2024**

### **Present**

Sue Dagleish (SD) (Chair)	Julie Conder Councillor (JC)
Miki Ellar - Councillor (ME)	Mark Nicholls Councillor (MN)
Paul Wheeler Councillor (PW)	Rachel Marsh Clerk (RM)

Michael Atkins (MA)	Paul Wright (PW <sub>r</sub> )	Peter Reynolds (PR)
Jill Coleman (JCo)	Rachel Hooper (RH)	Joeeta Murphy (JM)
Mrs Nicholls (MrsN)	Charlie Richmond (CR)	Linda Rimmer (LR)
Peter Stokes (PS)	Sarah Wright (SW)	

Apologies - Tumi Hawkins (TH)

Meeting commenced at 7.30pm

### **1 Chair of Parish Council's Report - See Appendix A**

SD welcomed and thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

#### **1.1 Grass cutting in Kingston (SD)**

Outlining her report, SD told the meeting that Buchans landscape contractors would not be continuing after June and therefore Kingston parish Council (KPC) would be looking for an interim contractor while also going out to tender for new contractors.

#### **1.2 Play Park (SD)**

Two applications for grants for work at the Play Park had been unsuccessful unfortunately. Councillors have been and will continue to carry out more minor repairs but further grants were being applied for as some of the works would be more costly.

#### **1.3 Cranes Lane (PW)**

The Highways Agency have carried out repairs to the potholes they deemed necessary. PW is waiting for the new Highways and Drainage and Resilience Manager to be appointed. He will then contact them with a view to setting up meetings regarding further work to damaged drains and potholes and will obtain details of contractors who could do some of the work to ask for quotes. Clearing gullies has helped move surface water but there is further work to do and this will be looked into over coming months.

### **2 Transport Report - See Appendix B**

JC advised that Whippet have been running the 18 bus service and that initial teething problems appear to have settled down. Any problems that do arise seem to be when there are new or replacement drivers. JC requested that residents report any problems with the service to her. She also highlighted the

importance of people in the village using the buses whenever possible so that the service continues.

### **3 Open Spaces Report - See Appendix C**

MN thanked landowners for maintaining and marking the footpaths. He also thanked residents and landowners for clearing and maintaining ditches. He reported that, following a very wet winter and spring, the paths were drying out now although some areas, such as the Porters Way, remained wet in places.

PS mentioned that the Highways Agency had laid asphalt chippings some time ago to part of the Porters Way and this had lasted well. He suggested contacting the Highways Agency and requesting more chippings to the remainder of the footpath.

Action: MN will look into this.

JCo told the meeting that the fallen tree on the Toft bridge footpath was not passable.

Action: The tree is at the Toft end of the bridge but MN will look into this.

PR requested that street signs were cleaned rather than replaced.

MN replied that he had been and would continue to clean the signs and replacement would be a last resort.

### **4 Clerk's Report - See Appendix D**

#### **4.1 Costs**

SD reported that KPC's funds were healthy at present but that costs, particularly grass cutting, were rising. The position of parish clerk, soon to be vacated by RM, had become more time consuming and the council would have to consider increasing the number of hours and therefore the salary offered to future clerks.

Grants have been made towards the churchyard and the parish magazine.

#### **4.2 Street lighting**

The Parish Council has recently changed its electricity supplier to ESPO, which was a supplier suggested by Tumi Hawkins (TH) as they provide supplies for local authorities. This change was necessary as our previous supplier OPUS Energy had recently increased costs to over £100 a month as we had come to the end of a fixed rate contract with them and individual daily standing charges were introduced for our three street lighting supplies. The price from ESPO is currently between £24-26 per month however figures may change slightly from September 2024. SD advised that if costs continue to soar in coming years then residents may be asked if they wish to keep these additional street lights.

#### **4.3 Bank Accounts**

The precept from South Cambs District Council (SCDC) has been received in one payment for the whole year rather than as previously in 2 separate amounts during the year. This means that the current account is higher than usual and therefore some money has been transferred to the deposit account to attract more interest.

JCo asked if the SCDC 4-day week may have any impact on the precept received by KPC. JC replied that the precept was set by KPC and had been received for the whole year and would therefore not impact on KPC's budget this year.

## **5 District Councillor's Report - See Appendix E**

TH was unable to attend the meeting but forwarded her report, which highlighted her targets to:

- Grow local economies and provide more jobs
- Provide more local affordable housing
- Work towards zero-carbon targets

Her report stressed that SCDC was in a financially sound position at present.

## **6 County Councillor's Report - See Appendix F**

### **6.1 Finances**

MA informed the meeting that finances were the main challenge for all councils. Social care and children's special educational needs accounted for 80% of the County Council's Budget and while the council was on budget for the current year having increased council tax by the maximum of 3% and 2% for social care, the future did not look as rosy.

### **6.2 Highways**

£40,000,000 has been invested in local highways for maintenance and while not all the current highways problems could be rectified immediately it was hoped that they should improve. The council continues to support applications for 20mph zones where there is a demand.

### **6.3 Weed Killer**

The ban on using chemicals to remove weeds has been tempered by the need for road safety. The council now takes a middle of the road approach supporting weed killer where necessary.

### **6.4 Civil Parking Enforcement**

Civil parking enforcement has now been transferred from the police to county councils who are employing wardens to patrol areas where illegal parking is a problem, such as train stations, schools and road junctions.

### **6.5 Life Survey**

The Council ran a quality of life survey and found that the majority of people were happy and felt safe, although there was some frustration with the highways and social isolation was a problem for many families and young people.

### **6.6 Council spending**

Discussions were underway to put money into mental health issues. Supermarket vouchers were again being issued over the school holidays to those families that received free school meals. One-off payments were available to those in poverty.

### **6.7 Cambridge 2040/2050**

There was not much detail at present regarding the expansion of laboratories and 150,000 new homes in Cambridgeshire. It is expected that a delivery group will take control away from councils and discussions will be through MPs.

PW<sub>r</sub> asked what would happen if Cambridge County Council (CCA) went bankrupt? MA replied that councils were not officially allowed to go bankrupt. Instead, a notice would be issued and all non-essential services would cease. However, MA believes that CCA should not have a problem in the next 3-5 years.

SD thanked MA for attending the meeting.

## **7. Kingston Village Hall Management Committee Report - See Appendix G**

PW<sub>r</sub> reported that the village Hall was in a good state of repair and financially sound from lettings, the Quiz and chips evenings and the BBQ. PW<sub>r</sub> thanked all the volunteers for their help in running the village hall and events.

A grant from KPC provided a screen and KVH is now licenced to show films and features. Although unable to charge for this service the hall can make money from the bar.

Lettings have been good this year particularly from the hall hire by the Emergency Services.

PW<sub>r</sub> said that, while the committee cannot run events, they are happy to offer advice. HE also mentioned that the KVHMC are getting older and they would very much welcome volunteers to join the committee. It is also considered that while finances are good at present, the news may not be as positive in future years. ACAR grants will become fewer meaning that reserves will decline.

However, KVHMC is applying for a zero-carbon grant to invest in solar panels. It is hoped that this will meet the cost of electricity for the hall in future years and possibly generate additional electricity that could be sold back to the national grid.

SD thanked PW<sub>r</sub> for his report.

## **8. KINGSTON POOR CHARITY - See Appendix H**

PR reported that the Kingston Poor Charity is financially sound at the current time. PAUS is the main tenant and the index linked rent means that the charity will be able to provide more support for student grants and those Kingston residents in need.

PR reported that registering the land is in hand and that a drafted governing document has been sent to the Charities Commission.

ME recommended supporting PAUS as a local business providing a café as well as events.

SD thanked PR for his report.

## 9. Parochial Church Council - See Appendix I

PR reported that, thanks to resident's contributions and enabling grants, repairs totalling £135,000 had been completed. Unfortunately, now that Kay Forsythe the Treasurer has left Kingston, the Parochial Church Council is down to 5 members. PR believes that residents want their church but more volunteers are required to maintain it.

PW mentioned how good the concerts held in the church were and hopes that they will continue. PR replied that there is another concert due to be held on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2024. There will also be a Gift Day/Picnic on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2024 with a teddy parachute drop to help raise funds for the church.

ME asked if the PCC had considered becoming a Festival Church. PR replied that although there was only one service a month in Kingston church, compared to 3 a week in 1967 people were reluctant to look at changing to a Festival Church status. SD enquired whether becoming a Festival Church would change the finances of the church but PR was unsure of this area.

SD thanked PR for his report.

## 10. Open Forum

10.1 PS asked if KPC was pursuing any consultation in the village regarding the 20mph speed limit. SD replied that as well as considering the 20mph speed limit, KPC had been approached regarding a 40mph limit on parts of the B1046 approaching the village and had been in touch with other local villages along the route. So far only Toft had replied and advised that they had no plans to request a speed reduction on the road at the current time. PS stated that a 20mph speed limit would only be consideration by the Highways Agency if there was support from residents.

Action – KPC will discuss the 20mph application further and obtain residents views by placing an article in the village magazine.

10.2 RH enquired whether the village has a Protection of Neighbourhood Plan to protect from speculative building. JC responded that there was a Community Led Plan on the website but that KPC didn't have the resources for a Protection of Neighbourhood Plan as it is a very involved process to create such a plan. MN mentioned that we had discussed the topic of Neighbourhood Plans with TH in the past and she had been surprised that KPC would consider this route as we are a small village and that there were safeguards built into SCDC's local plans.

10.3 SD informed the meeting that EWR construction plans were progressing with more meetings planned by EWR. It did not appear currently that there were any plans to pause work despite several objections from local groups along the route.

10.4 JM mentioned that she was aware of the work to repair potholes in Cranes Lane but wondered if repairs would be carried out elsewhere in the village? PW advised that thanks to reporting problems potholes throughout the village were on the work list. He reminded the meeting to report potholes on the Highways Agency website. PS recommended taking a photo of the hole together with a ruler showing the scale of the problem. JM suggested that another article in the magazine would be useful on this matter.

SD thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

The meeting finished at 8:55pm.

Minutes reference: 20242105

Signed: .....

Date: .....

## Chairman's Report for Kingston Annual Parish Meeting

21 May 2024

It has been another busy year for the Parish Council. The East West Rail project continues to develop with regular meetings organised to update local communities on progress. The parish council continues to be represented at these meetings.

After the sad news of the death of Stuart Buchan earlier this year we have been advised that Buchans will no longer be able to provide grass maintenance services to the village. We will be going out to tender to secure a new contractor but in the meantime we are trying to secure an interim service provider to maintain the play park, The Orchard, The Spinney and the two Village Greens.

We face a significant level of repair work required to some of the equipment in the village play park. We have applied to two sources for funding assistance in the past year to help with the cost of works however due to high demand for these schemes we were unsuccessful on both occasions. We have now submitted a third grant application and will advise the results of our application in due course. If we cannot obtain addition grant funding from an outside organisation, we may have to use some parish council reserves to carry out the work. Further updates will be published in the parish magazine over coming months.

We have been working to alleviate the problem of surface water in the village this winter due to the heavy rain we have experienced. We are also working to improve the condition of the road surface in Cranes Lane and have held meetings with our local councillors and various council bodies to arrange for repairs to be carried out to the road surface as it has deteriorated severely in recent years. This topic will continue to be a focus of our attention in coming months.

We have received several planning applications over the past year which mostly related to individual properties. Full details of all planning applications can be found on the South Cambridgeshire Planning Website pages.

I would like to thank our councillors Julie Condor, Mark Nicholls, Miki Ellar and Paul Wheeler for their contributions and support over the past year. They generously give many hours of their time to assist with various projects in the village and are always happy to take responsibility for many different areas which is a great help to me as Parish Chair. I would also like to thank our clerk Rachel Marsh for all her help and support over the past year.

The parish council continues to use the Parish Magazine as a method of communicating with the village. We also use the village website to provide details of current events and copies of the minutes of parish meetings which may be of interest. These can be accessed by typing <https://kingstonvillage.org.uk>

Sue Dagleish  
Chairman  
Kingston Parish Council



## Kingston Number 18 Bus Service

I am continuing to monitor the bus service in Kingston provided by Whippet, so please do let me know of your experiences using it, both good and bad.

Fortunately the service seems to have settled down over the past year. We don't have anywhere near the frequency of buses that we would like, but at least for the most part they do seem to run when the timetable says they should. The national government initiative that started last year to encourage bus use with the provision of £2 single fares is also continuing to operate.

There were still a few instances reported to me where the bus seemed to 'skip' the Kingston turning, but this appears to have been just a handful of isolated instances when there were new or trainee drivers on the route.

The current timetable for our route is available on the Whippet website <https://www.whippetbus.co.uk/times/18/>

and similar information is available here <http://www.cambridgeshirebus.info/>

Whippet has a feed on X (formerly Twitter) which gives advance warning of problems and cancellations <https://x.com/GoWhippet>

There is also a "MyBusTrip" app produced in conjunction with Cambridgeshire County Council, giving "real-time information", for Android and iPhone users.

*Julie Conder  
Kingston Parish Councillor 16<sup>th</sup> May 2024*

## Open Spaces Report for the Annual Parish Meeting, May 2024

### *Rights of Way*

Allowing for the extremely wet weather through winter and early spring, there are few major problems to report. Our thanks go to the landowners and others who have ensured that paths are well signposted and marked through growing crops. Routes are passable, albeit in stout boots, but of course there have been times in recent months when some paths presented significant challenges: the Armshold Lane Bridleway 1, the usual sticky stretch along the Porters Way and Footpath 13 into Eversden Wood were three cases in point. Several fallen trees, boughs and other obstacles have been removed. Some of the falls were spectacular, as for example that which blocked the bridge over the Bourn Brook on the boundary of the Swards. One or two such obstacles remain at the time of writing.

Warmer days have now returned, and the growing season for briars and brambles seems to go on longer every year. Winter work ensured that the permissive path by the old railway bridge site on the B1046 remained open to cyclists and pedestrians, pending the first of the two scheduled annual cuts by our contractors. The footpath / Wimpole Way signpost at the southern end of Bridleway 3, on the Old Wimpole Road, was damaged a year ago, and reported to the County Council. Repair work was agreed, but budget cuts have since delayed repair and replacement. More recently, similar considerations have frustrated repairs to another sloping signpost (for Footpaths 2 and 9) on the Old Wimpole Road, and replacement of the dangerous bends sign on the B1046, damaged in an accident earlier this year. I will keep pressing for remedies in these cases, but the County Council seem increasingly unable or unwilling to pay for repairs to signs on byways, bridleways, and footpaths.

### *Potholes*

The inclement winter has also left many of our roads in a poor state. Numerous potholes and instances of damage to verges have been logged on the County Council's Highways Reporting Tool, and a few of the more threatening potholes have been patched up amid the deluges. Not for the first time – this has been a recurrent theme in the Council minutes for fifty years – the state of the road surface in Crane's Lane gives us ongoing cause for concern. Paul Wheeler's efforts to engage with council officials will we hope bear further fruit in the weeks to come, as the county dries out.

### *Hedges, Trees and Grasscutting*

The Parish Council have updated the mowing and cutting schedules agreed with our contractors Buchans, and will endeavour to ensure that these are adhered to going forward, recognising that the contractors have faced great and unlooked for difficulties over the past few months. Smaller branches brought down in strong winds have been removed from various parts of the village, including the Orchard. The Parish Council paid for the removal of a self-seeded sycamore growing into the electricity cables near the well, and have approved, subject to planning permission, further work to the yew and oak overhanging the narrowest part of Church Lane, following notification from Cambridgeshire Highways that double decker buses were finding it difficult to negotiate this stretch of road.

### *The Telephone Box*

New signs identifying the box as our Village Library were secured and fitted by Paul Wheeler. They have been widely welcomed.

### *The Play Area*

The Play Area is used steadily, if not perhaps as intensively as in some years past. The equipment, fencing, gate and grounds are inspected weekly, to spot and address problems resulting from insidious wear and tear. While the Parish Council pursues grants for upkeep based on competitive application processes, expenditure on certain items will almost certainly be necessary this year, and the anticipated costs have been included in our budgeting.

### *Speed Limits*

Although the parish was unsuccessful in securing funding for a 20mph limit in the centre of the village, another tranche of funding is on offer this year and we will apply again.

### *The Swards*

Some necessary stile and fencing repairs have been undertaken on the Swards, and several fallen branches were removed following the gales in early spring. The Bourn Brook itself runs clear.

### *Street Signs*

The damaged and worn Field Row sign has been replaced. I note the poor state of other signs and will seek to clean, repair or replace some of the more dilapidated examples.

### *Drainage*

As many readers will know, Paul Wheeler has surveyed drainage across the village. Among other helpful steps, he has arranged for the grip on the right side of the Green, south of Green Ley, to be dug out, taking some of the water running down this road. The concerns of villagers, in Crane's Lane and in other parts of Kingston, have been presented forcefully to the authorities, and we are pressing for blocked drains to be cleared when responsibility for this work falls on the County Council. The Parish Council wish to record thanks to all those residents who have cleared and maintained ditches on and alongside their properties. Contributions of this kind are essential if we are to get on top of the challenge posed by heavier and more prolonged winter rainfall.

Mark Nicholls  
3 May 2024

## Kingston Annual Parish Meeting

### Clerk's Report – 21 May 2024

I have attached a summary of income and expenditure for the year 2023/4 and will now highlight a few items from this.

#### 1. Grass and Hedge cutting

Stuart Buchan Landscapes has sadly advised us that they are no longer able to provide grass cutting services to the village. We are in the process of going out to tender to secure a new contractor. We continue to receive a payment from the County Council for the cutting of grass verges within the village and also from Mrs Heyman for cutting an area of grass owned by her that adjoins Field Row.

#### 2. Grants

Two grants were made to the Parochial Church Council in the financial year 2023/24 - an amount of £850.00 for churchyard maintenance and £670.00 was made in respect of Parish Magazine costs.

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#### 3 Communication

The Parish Council uses the magazine to disseminate information to residents. The magazine continues to be delivered to all households in the parish free of charge. Miki Ellar acts as our editor and does a wonderful job collating information each month about local events being held throughout the parish.

#### 4. Bank Balances

Our total bank balances as at the end of the year stood at £19822.00 This represents an increase on last year's figure of £18630.00 and represents a healthy reserve. We do however have two items where costs relating to the last financial year were received after the end of the financial year end date. The first relates to the cost of street lighting for the period 8 March 2023 to 31 March 2023 as we recently transferred to a new supplier ESPO as Opus our old electricity supplier had increased monthly bills considerably following the end of a fixed term contract period. The second related to the cost of the cleaning the village bus shelter for the year 23/24. Details of both costs have now been received and will be processed in the usual way.

Although our reserves are healthy, we do however face several repair bills for works that are required to the village play park. Following two unsuccessful bids for funding support there is a possibility that money will have to be taken from parish council reserves to undertake this work. Further details of this issue will be reported using the parish magazine over coming months.

#### 5. Audit of accounts

Our formalities for the audit for the 2022/23 financial year are complete. The internal auditor has completed his report. Anybody may request to inspect the Parish Council accounts and other documentation. Results of the audit are published in the usual way.

Parish Clerk  
21 May 2024

**KINGSTON PARISH COUNCIL - FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR 2023/24**

**2023/24**

£

**2022/23**

£

**INCOME**

10,892	Precept	10,860
311	Grasscutting	306
0	Kingston Oil Club	35
416	Interest earned	151
60	Allotment rent	60
1,230	VAT reclaim for previous years	540
<b>12,909</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>11,952</b>

**EXPENDITURE**

449	Insurance	418
75	Audit fees	65
2,805	Grass and hedge cutting (contract)	2,185
2,467	Clerk's salary	2,963
85	Footpath lighting	150
460	Subscriptions	431
850	Grants	2,385
1,288	Village Hall improvement project	1,288
594	Asset maintenance	285
670	Parish magazine	734
1,126	Miscellaneous	598
848	VAT (reclaimable)	501
<b>11,717</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>12,003</b>

**INCOME MINUS EXPENDITURE**

<b>1,192</b>	<b>-51</b>
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**BANK BALANCE AT 31 Mar**

<b>19,822</b>	<b>18,630</b>
<b>1,192</b>	<b>-51</b>

**Change last year to this year**

# South Cambridgeshire District Council – Caldecote Ward Councillor's Annual Report – April 2024

Caldecote Ward comprising the Parishes of Bourn, Caldecote, Childerley,  
Kingston, Little Gransden & Longstowe



## 1. Introduction

This municipal year 2023/24 has been quite a busy one and this report covers the last 12 months of activities by South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC) and Councillors which I hope will be useful for you.

## 2. Governance

Thank you to all who have continued to support me in this role as your Ward Councillor. It's been my pleasure to serve you and will continue to do so to the best of my ability. A lot of my time is taken up by the related responsibility as the Cabinet Member for Planning Policy, Development Management and Strategic Sites. (SCDC hosts the Greater Cambridge Shared Planning service) Building control, (a 3Cs shared service) also comes under my remit. I served as a member of the Climate and Environment Advisory Committee and the Planning Committee.

**District Council** – South Cambs District Council is in LibDem administration. The statutory services provided are: Waste Collection & Recycling, Planning (these two are shared services with Cambridge City but we host them), Housing, Environmental Health, Licensing, Council Tax Collection, Benefits and Business Development & Support.

We continued to build upon our ambitious 5-year business plan for 2019 to 2024 in the four key priority areas we identified:

- **Growing local businesses and economies** – We will support businesses of all sizes, to help create new jobs and opportunities near to where people live.
- **Housing that is affordable for everyone to live in** – We will build vibrant communities in locations where people have good access to facilities and transport links, so they can genuinely afford to lead a happy and healthy life.
- **Being green to our core** – We will create a cleaner, greener and zero-carbon future for our communities.
- **A modern and caring Council** – We will provide our customers with high-quality services, strive to reduce costs, build on what we are good at to generate our own income and make decisions in a transparent, open and inclusive way.

### 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

South Cambs marked its 50th anniversary with a civic ceremony at South Cambs Hall in March. That was preceded by the planting of a tree by Deputy Lieutenant for Cambridgeshire Jeremy Newsum. SCDC was created in 1974 by combining what was then Chesterton Rural District Council and South Cambridgeshire Rural District Council. It was an opportunity to pay thanks to the unwavering dedication and commitment of all those who have served on and worked for the council over the years as well as the continued support of our residents and stakeholders.

## 3. Housing and Planning

### Truly Affordable Housing

We recognise that everyone deserves a high-quality, safe, and affordable place to live.

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Affordable housing is generally delivered by housing associations, often through S106 schemes especially on major sites. However, SCDC also acquires social affordable housing in significant numbers and have delivered 109 council homes this year.

We are well into a programme of upgrading the thermal efficiency of our existing council housing stock using grant funding from Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund to bring them up to EPC Band C which will result in a significant reduction in energy running costs for tenants.

The Council formed a housebuilding partnership with The Hill Group through the South Cambridgeshire Investment Partnership (SCIP). SCIP now has planning permission to build 256 new low-carbon Passivhaus principles homes in Cambourne (area opposite/next to South Cambs Hall). 40% will be affordable comprising 72 for rent and 30 for shared ownership.

We continue to support the liaison meetings in villages that are seeing a lot of building out, and community forums in Northstowe, Waterbeach, North-West Cambridge, Cambridge East, North-East Cambridge and Bourn Airfield and Cambourne (which I chair).

### **Homes for Ukraine**

The continuing Russian aggression in Ukraine means that this scheme is still very active. South Cambs supports one of the largest numbers of Ukrainian guests of any district and the council provides support such as funding for hosts, employment support for guests, and small grants for activities to help guests to integrate. The latest initiative is to provide support for guests moving on from hosts into independent accommodation via our landlord incentive scheme which encourages private landlords to accept Ukrainian guests as tenants. The council determines the priorities for the scheme but continues to receive financial support from the government to provide them.

### **Planning and Emerging Joint Local Plan**

We continue the work on the emerging joint local plan with Cambridge City that will determine how our district is developed over the period 2020-2041. This work has slowed down due to the issue of water supply for which Cambridge Water is responsible and Transport (due to Making Connections proposal by the Greater Cambridge Partnership falling aside). The Government has established a Water Scarcity Group (WSG) to work with all partners/stakeholders to resolve this challenge. The Council is engaging with the WSG.

By February 2024, we had adopted 8 adopted neighbourhood plans and a further 17 areas have been designated indicating their intention to prepare a neighbourhood plan. The Planning service has also created a Neighbourhood Planning Toolkit to assist the communities preparing theirs.

The joint Five-Year Housing Land Supply (with Cambridge City) is 6.5 years for the 2024-29 five year period. This is good news as it means we are currently exceeding the minimum 5 years set by government for all local authorities.

The Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service (GCSPS) is fully staffed for the first time in over a decade. The 4DW has helped in bringing in more and highly qualified professionals. Also range of building projects is more varied than elsewhere in the country.

The Service has also won industry awards, including for Youth Engagement and this month been shortlisted as one of 5 finalists for the prestigious Planning Awards 2024 “Local authority planning team of the year”. This is testament to the positive journey and transformation the service has undergone since May 2018 when we took over control of the council. The merging of South Cambs and City planning staff had just been implemented in the April so there was plenty to do.



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The GCSPS has also won £250,000 of Government Prop Tech funding & Digital Planning Improvement fund for work on our digital transformation in planning to make it easier for residents and businesses to access and for the applications to be processed more quickly.

## **Michael Gove Cambridge 2050 Plan**

Michael Gove announced his plans for ‘Cambridge 2040’ in July 2023 but, since then, details have been slow to emerge. Gove’s original figure of 250,000 homes (which he denied at one point) has since been revised down to 150,000 PLUS (it’s a matter of words) and the date pushed back to 2050. He refuses to speak to us Local Authorities directly about his plans and just “announces”. Last month, the government announced that it intends to set up a ‘growth corporation’. The administration had hoped and assumed that, as the local planning authority, it would have a seat on the board of this organisation and bring to it significant local knowledge and experience but it seems that local authorities will only sit on an advisory council alongside businesses and industry partners and without a vote or decision-making powers. So much for Localism.

There is still a great deal that is unknown about the government’s Cambridge 2050 plans. Even if there is a Labour government after the upcoming general election, the government policy may not change much because of the growth of the Life Science sector (medical research, bioscience and medical sciences). It is therefore vital that the local authorities use any power that the government allows to make sure that the infrastructure needed for such growth is in place. One of those is plans for a sustainable transport system, which is badly needed to prevent our roads from grinding to a halt due to increasing congestion and to reduce the decline in air quality levels. New schools and health facilities are going to be needed, water scarcity issues are critical and environmental protections must be put in place. Affordable housing is going to be absolutely vital.

## **4. Growing local businesses and economies**

The Business team is doing a lot of work to support local businesses (specifically SMEs) to grow, which will help local communities thrive, bringing jobs and opportunities into our villages. Access to high quality jobs is essential to make sure everyone can live their life how they want to. The team is also helping local businesses transition to net-zero means so they will be more resilient to the impact of climate change and help the district at large in its efforts to be more sustainable.

Our work in supporting local high streets and markets is directly benefitting communities and helping residents shop locally and support local businesses. The [VisitSouthCams](#) website we created is proving popular with small businesses advertising.

## **5. A Modern and Caring Council**

Being a modern council means we are continuing to undergo significant transformation work. It’s not just about saving money but is about finding ways of improving our services for residents and using the resources we have efficiently and effectively. We are making more and more of our services available online and are updating our website to make them more easily accessible to residents. Our commercial investments are successfully bringing increasing income to the Council and we’re working to tackle income tax and business rates fraud. The Council is creating a member development plan, making sure Councillors have the skills and knowledge needed to best support residents in their communities.

We are also providing targeted health and wellbeing support for vulnerable residents and ensuring our staff have the training to respond appropriately to safeguarding issues. On a cross-party basis, the Council agreed to work towards White Ribbon accreditation, a charity that seeks to tackle domestic abuse and gender-based violence.

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## **Cost of Living support**

We continue to provide support for those having difficulty in the ongoing cost-of-living crisis. affects everyone and SCDC has been supporting residents through the winter. The Council is supporting a Mobile Food hub that visits 6 villages and gave out about 500 electric blankets in winter.

## **Four Day Week (4DW) Trial**

The 4DW is where council officers are expected to carry out 100% of their work in 80% (four days) of the work week but keep their full pay. This was introduced in a bid to get more experienced staff to come and work here especially in the hard to fill areas like Planning and Waste. This is an expensive place to live and we needed to come up with a creative benefit as we local government cannot compete with the private sector on pay.

It's interesting that both the Scottish and Welsh Governments are considering this 4DW scheme though the British Government is doing its best to stop the trial. It has issued a Best Value Notice and threatened the Council with unspecified financial penalties if the scheme continues. Any decision on making it permanent can only be taken when the Government comes out clean on details of its punishing financial intentions. Once we have clarity from the government, we will conduct appropriate consultation and the trial data will be independently analysed. Then Councillors can debate at full council and come to decision whether to make it permanent or not. Until then, the council officers continue to operate a four-day working pattern.

So far the trial is working, as the Council has spent £434,000 less on expensive agency staff to cover the roles that were hard to fill. There is no significant negative impact on services and in some areas, the Council's services have improved. Health and wellbeing surveys of staff show a significant positive impact on both their mental and physical health, and sickness level has decreased too. The Planning development management team is fully staffed for the first time in recent memory!

## **Financial Position and Budget**

South Cambridgeshire District Council is in a strong financial position – something increasingly rare amongst local authorities. The accounts have been published as required by government and are fully up to date. In February, we passed our budget for the 2024/25 financial year which includes a whole range of ways we're investing in improving the lives of our residents.

In common with all other local authorities, SCDC has seen its government funding cut significantly in recent years. We have made successful commercial investments that has brought in £7million which is being used to make up the shortfall of withdrawn government funding and enable us to continue to provide services to residents. The district is still one of the lowest council tax local authorities in the country. The council tax rise was below inflation and equated to 42p per month for a Band D property. We have council tax relief offering up to 100% relief from council tax for those residents who need it most.

## **Grants**

The strong financial position means we continue to be able to offer grants to our communities. These include the following:

- Community chest (small community projects) - £80K
- Service support grants (for the voluntary and community sector) £174K
- Long-term health - £13K
- Leisure Centre support (post-Covid) - £5K

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- Council tenant community grants - £6K
  - 6 Free Trees Scheme - £5K
  - EV charge-points for local charities - £15K
  - Zero carbon (larger grants to encourage carbon reduction) - £126K see below.

## **6. Green To Our Core**

We continue to take big strides in reducing the Council's carbon footprint, greening South Cambs Hall and reducing the energy consumption of our commercial buildings and other assets owned by the council including the council house portfolio. The Waste Service is operating 3 electric refuse lorries, and some vehicles that run on Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil. Our Waterbeach Renewable Energy Network Project will help reduce the Council's carbon emissions as more solar panels will be installed and is a landmark project being watched by other authorities up and down the country.

The Council carried out its very first Climate Conference last November 2023, and it was a full house (I was there too), as over 70 people from across the district attended.

Through schemes such as repair cafés, food waste redistribution schemes and cooperation with other authorities across the county, we are helping households to reduce waste and encouraging recycling and the development of a circular economy.

We have employed two new Environmental Enforcement Officers specifically to address the issue of fly tipping more efficiently and bring offenders to book more quickly.

### **Zero Carbon Communities grant scheme 2024**

Zero Carbon Communities grant scheme is very popular and been running for six years. Grants of between £2,000 and £15,000 are available to parish councils and community groups in the district. Since its inception, more than half a million pounds has been given to schemes across the district under two main themes: to lock-up carbon or reduce emissions and to increase community engagement on any matters related to climate change. The current scheme with a pot of £125,000 is open now. Further information, help and advice is available on the council website.

### **SCDC Allotments toolkit**

We appreciate the health and wellbeing benefits of garden allotments and are trying to promote them by offering grant funding and signposting to advice which is on the council website. There are also small grants in the pipeline to encourage new community growing clubs look out for further details soon.

## **7. Community Issues**

I continue to assist residents with issues to do with South Cambs services either as individuals or a community group on matters such as housing, planning, waste collection, benefits, grants application support.

I also raise your concerns on large infrastructure or national significant projects such as the Luton Airport Airspace Deployment AD6 and East West Rail (EWR).

On EWR, I am on 3 local representative groups representing Caldecote community, raising concerns about the impact the proposed route alignment will have on the area and requesting very loudly for mitigation and benefits. The result of this is that EWR have stated the section from north of Cambourne will cross the A428 dual carriageway and Caldecote underground, and working on

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how they do that and have mentioned cuttings. EWR is a project that the Government is committed to building out due to the economic growth in this region fuelled by the Life Sciences. It needs permission from Government to build so is now working on that Development Consent Order process. The next phase is the statutory consultation that EWR is proposing to hold in two stages starting in June 2024 to engage the local communities.

On Luton AD6, the post implementation review period ended in September 2023. I worked with RELAS and contributed to the reports of the noisy effects that residents in many villages in our ward experienced during that period. I also submitted a response to the separate DCO application that Luton submitted to expand the airport from 18million to 32 million passengers a year.

I chaired the quarterly Caldecote Liaison Meetings held with the developers, planning officers, parish council and Grafton Management for the two sites developments of Linden and Balfour. The sites are now built out, but there are still outstanding issues that we are resolving. Thanks to the village representatives who continue to engage and help.

## 8. Casework

If you need my assistance at any time in the interim, I am always available to you, so please contact me in one of the usual ways, details in the box below. If you are on facebook, I strongly recommend liking my page at <https://www.facebook.com/itsCouncillorTumi/> to get information and updates quickly.

*Tumi*

Tumi Hawkins  
25 April 2024

<b>Email me @:</b>	<a href="mailto:tumi@tumihawkins.org.uk">tumi@tumihawkins.org.uk</a>
<b>Read my blog at:</b>	<a href="http://www.TumiHawkins.org.uk">http://www.TumiHawkins.org.uk</a>
<b>(X) Twitter:</b>	<a href="https://twitter.com/CouncillorTumi">@CouncillorTumi</a>
<b>Facebook</b>	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/itsCouncillorTumi">@itsCouncillorTumi</a>
<b>Instagram:</b>	<a href="https://www.instagram.com/cllrtumi">@cllrtumi</a>
<b>LinkedIn</b>	<a href="https://www.linkedin.com/company/TumiHawkins">TumiHawkins</a>
<b>Call me on:</b>	07802 323269

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# Report: County Councillor (Hardwick div.) District Councillor (Harston & Comberton) Cllr Michael Atkins April/May 2024

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## Highlights

- Fully funded EV charge points
- EWR events
- Civil Parking Enforcement early successes
- PCC elections – please remember to bring ID
- Zero carbon grants open to bids
- Contact information

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## *News from the County*

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### Yaxley by-election results

Cllr Andrew Wood (Liberal Democrat) was elected to the Council following a by-election in Yaxley & Farcet. The Liberal Democrats are now the largest group on the County Council. There are no anticipated changes to the groups in administration.

### Fully funded EV charging points

The Council is putting together an application for the deployment of local EV infrastructure, typically 7kW chargers in public car parks. These are intended for local residents who do not have off-street parking suitable for home charging. If your village car park might be suitable there will be an online session on 9<sup>th</sup> May 1-2pm to find out more: sign up here <https://forms.office.com/e/SkSjL78vDG>

### East-West Rail

EWR will be holding a number of events to explain how the statutory consultation will take place later this year, and how you can get involved. Ones local to us are: 10<sup>th</sup> May 2pm-7pm South Cambridgeshire Hall, Cambourne; 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2pm-7pm Comberton Village Hall.

They have also recently issued Land Interest Questionnaires to potentially affected properties to ensure they have a complete picture of ownership and usage along the proposed route. If any residents have questions about this there are some FAQs available here:

<https://eastwestrail.co.uk/land-interest-questionnaires-liq-faqs>

### Civil Parking Enforcement

CPE officers have been active across South Cambs and indeed in our own villages over the last few months. Over 150 tickets have been issued as a result of 330 patrols. If you are aware of any illegal parking hotspots that would benefit from a patrol, do let me know.

## Primary school offers

Families will now have received offers for children starting primary school in September. 96% are attending their first choice and 99% one of their top three preferences. If any families are having difficulties with this process or would like more information on appeals or school transport, please get in touch. Offers need to be accepted either through the Council or the offered school so please remember to do this promptly.

## Cambridge 2050

Michael Gove (Secretary of State) has published a Ministerial Statement on his growth plans for Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire. It confirms that a Growth Company will be formed reporting to Homes England (the Government's housing agency). There will be no local decision making as part of this, although council leaders will join an advisory committee. There is still no indication as to where the proposed housing (equivalent to 3x the current population of Cambridge) will be sited.

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# News from GCP & Combined Authority

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## PCC Elections

A reminder that Police and Crime Commissioner elections will take place on 2<sup>nd</sup> May. For the first time, photo ID will be required to vote, so please remember to take your driver's licence/passport etc. with you.

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# News from the District

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## Allotment toolkit

The Council has published advice on successfully running and maintaining an allotment site, which can be accessed here: <https://www.scams.gov.uk/community-safety-and-health/community-action/allotment-toolkit/>

## Zero Carbon Community Grants

This popular scheme has opened again for applications to local groups, with themes for this year of Carbon Emission Reduction, Locking up carbon, and Community Engagement. The deadline for applications is the 2<sup>nd</sup> June. <https://www.scams.gov.uk/climate-emergency-and-nature/zero-carbon-communities/zero-carbon-communities-grant/>

## Rural Prosperity Fund

A new scheme to support local business with capital projects has been launched this month. The district has just under £900,000 to award to successful bidders, to foster economic vitality and local amenities. For more details see the grant page here: <https://www.scams.gov.uk/business/uk-shared-prosperity-fund/rural-england-prosperity-fund/>

## Improvements to green spaces

The council-owned green space at the centre of Silverdale Avenue, Coton will be improved with tree and wildflower planting, benches, resurfacing and other improvements. Please let me know if you would like to see a copy of the draft plans.

If Parish councils own land that would benefit from being 'spruced up', in mid-May the Council will open a scheme for bids of a similar nature.

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# Contact Details

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Councillors and residents are welcome to contact me on any issue which is concerning them:

Clr Michael I. Atkins

[matkinslibdem@gmail.com](mailto:matkinslibdem@gmail.com)

<https://www.facebook.com/clrmichaelatkins>

07968 264637

**KINGSTON VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE****Chairman's report to the Annual Parish Meeting on 21 May 2024**

I think the hall is currently in good shape in terms of its condition, finances and lettings. We have had a very successful year for fund-raising and must express our thanks to Suzy and her team of helpers for the Christmas Fair, to Mark and Katherine for the Quiz and Chips, with its record bar sales and to the whole committee who made the BBQ a success despite reduced numbers. Simon Draper's art exhibition was a new event that also contributed to our income.

I would also like to express my thanks to Peter, our unofficial clerk of works, to Miki and her team of helpers for the Coffee Mornings and to Chris for keeping our accounts in good order. Sarah, our secretary) continues to manage lettings without a hitch and obtained the Emergency Services contract that made up for the loss of the karate class. I would also like to thank Jill for regularly checking the condition of the hall between lettings.

In terms of the coming year, we now have a projector and screen, purchased with the help of a donation from the Parish Council, and a large screen TV donated by Pat's family. Importantly, we have obtained all necessary TV, music and film licences. We have written confirmation from South Cambs that the three events a year limit for music etc. has now been removed and there are now no limits.

We screened the Coronation and some of the Rugby World Cup on the big screen, and the TV was used when audiences were small.

We must now ensure we get value from these considerable investments and I would like the committee and interested villagers to put some thought into this. We have also looked into Sky and BT subscription channels, but as we are a licensed premises open to the public we would be classed as a business subscriber at around £275 per month, which is clearly unaffordable.

We could do with more lettings and we should examine ways to advertise the hall more widely. We must also continue to impress on the village that we are a management, not a social committee. We need to get the message across that if people have a good idea for a club, such as Music Night and Table Tennis, we will provide support, and possibly some equipment. The installation of picture rail for art exhibitions is another good example. It was suggested at the last AGM that we might try and attract local businesses for conferences, training events etc. Advertising in other parish magazines turned out to be far too expensive so we did a leaflet drop of our "Open for Businesses" flyer in Hardwick and Toft, but with no results. However, our advertisement on Cambridgeshire Halls for Hire and the nationwide HallsHire websites have produced good results, including the Emergency Services contract.

Our committee consists of nine, five of whom are over 70 and have served for many years (some of us for 40 years) and so we need to encourage more from the middle and younger generations to join as members or friends, and take over as people retire.

Managing our energy costs is important and our investment in a remote control for the boiler and a timer on the hot water system is helping reduce unnecessary waste of energy.

Finally, we must be mindful that we have had a considerable windfall income from South Cambs during lockdown. We have used this to invest in equipment such as the screen and projector, table tennis and fuel saving controls for the boiler. From now on we must concentrate on getting returns from our investments and move to a position where our income from lettings and fund raising covers our



outgoings. We must also conserve our capital reserves for planned and unforeseen maintenance in the coming decade when the public purse may not be as generous as it has been in terms of grants .

So the basic message is we have a beautiful and well-appointed hall with an efficient management committee. The village must be made aware that this is a wonderful facility, and they should take advantage of it and not just wait for others to organise events.

Paul Wright

# Kingston Poors' Land Charity

## Annual Report 2024

### Financial Summary

The total balance held in the Charity's bank accounts on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 was £8586.62. (This includes a deposit of £3,000 which we hold on behalf of our tenant.)

Our income last year was £1,653.92 and we paid out a total of £1600. These payments included 4 student book grants to school leavers and 8 payments to families in need.

	Deposits	Payments	Balance
<b>Brought Forward</b>			<b>£7466.54</b>
<b>Community Account</b>	£1599.72	£1600.00	£4,030.85
<b>Premium Account</b>	£54.20	£00.00	£4,555.77
<b>Total</b>	<b>£1653.92</b>	<b>£1600.00</b>	<b>£8586.62</b>

During the negotiations for the tenancy agreement for our new tenant it became clear that several aspects of the charity's documentation needed to be reviewed and updated. These included registration of the ownership of the Charity's land, the Governing Document and wayleave payments.

### Land Registration

It is believed that the charity has owned several plots of land in the parish of Bourn since the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. These plots were consolidated into a single plot adjacent to the Kingston parish boundary in 1820 as part of the parliamentary enclosure of Bourn parish. This is the land still owned by the charity today but since the land has not been bought, sold or transferred since the enclosure, the ownership has never been formally registered with the Land

Registry. The Trustees made an application for registration in 2022. The Land Registry responded in November 2023 and asked us to provide further information including a formal “Statement of Truth”. This was prepared by our solicitor and submitted to the Land Registry. We are still awaiting a further response.

### **Governing Document**

The most recent governing document in our possession is a hand written set of rules dating back to 1933. Most of these rules were superseded in 1966 when the Charity Commission advised the Charity to give out fewer, but larger, payments to people in need rather than simply dividing the annual income evenly between "the poor" of the village. The Charity follows this Charity Commission advice but the governing document had not been updated to reflect this.

We decided it was time to regularize this situation by producing a revised governing document that reflected our current practice. It is based on the Charity Commission template constitution for small charities. It includes our current practice, based on Charity Commission advice from 1966 and those rules still relevant from the 1933 document. We are also considering changing the name of the charity to “The Kingston Parish Charity.” Our current name seems to cause some confusion and the reference to “the poor” may carry some stigma.

The draft was agreed by the Trustees on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2023 and was reviewed by Kingston Parish Council at their meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2023. A copy of this draft governing document has been sent to the Charity Commission for comments. We are currently awaiting a response before the draft is finalized and adopted.

### **Wayleave Payments**

There is an electricity pylon on the charity’s land. Eastern Power Networks were contacted to enquire whether the charity is eligible for a wayleave payment. This was agreed and an initial payment, including back payments for

the previous 6 years, was paid in November. There will now be regular annual payments, providing a small additional income for the charity.

Peter Reynolds and Donal O'Donnell

**Trustees**

**Kingston Poores' Land Charity.**

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH  
COUNCIL OF THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS AND SAINT ANDREW,  
KINGSTON – MARCH 2023 – 2024**

**1. Statement required under the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956**

The Parochial Church Council agrees to cooperate with the Team Rector in charge of the Papworth Team Ministry (Team East) in promoting in the parish of Kingston the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

**2. Members of the Council who have served during the current financial year**

Rev Stephen Day (Team Vicar) to August 2023 (SD)	Revd Nigel Pearson from August (NP)
Kay Forsythe (Treasurer, KF)	Peter Reynolds (Secretary, PR)
Linda Rimmer (LR)	Lee Steele (LS)
Torrie Smith (from 1 <sup>st</sup> February 2023, TS)	

**Parochial Church Council Meetings** were held five times, on 28.03.23, following the APCM; on 20.06.23; on 05.08.23; on 01.02.24; and on 21.03.24.

**3. The following were the principal matters dealt with by the PCC March 2023 – March 2024:**

- (i) Fund raising to 31.12.23 Ride and Stride £175 for Restoration Fund. Carol singing 16.12.23 raised £780 for Restoration Fund.
- (ii) Gift Day 15.07.23 with cream teas raised £2,912 (+ Gift Aid).
- (iii) Collections donated to charities: £125 to Help for Heroes.
- (iv) Maintaining public worship: two services - Holy Communion and Family Worship - each month. Harvest Festival 16.09.23 with Harvest Supper; Remembrance Service 12.11.23; Christmas Carol Service 17.12.23, and Christmas Eve service. Church closed for repairs 3<sup>rd</sup> July – 9<sup>th</sup> December.
- (v) One Baptism 17.3.24 Arthur Carter-Russell.
- (vi) Celebration of King Charles III's coronation: peal of bells 6<sup>th</sup> May 2023 and special celebratory service with refreshments afterwards 7<sup>th</sup> May.
- (vii) Annual inspection of fabric; fire extinguisher inspection by Morgan Fire Protection 28.02.23, £110; refill of Calor Gas tank 19.02.23, £1,576.
- (viii) Repairs to church tower completed by Edward Steel 21.08.23: Total cost £4,425 - 1,250 paid in 2022; £2,675 in 2023.
- (ix) Quinquennial Inspection of the fabric by Nigel Walter of Archangel Architects 28.02.23 – report 17.07.23.
- (x) Grant applications for fabric repairs: The Jack Patson Trust application secured £3,000. Total grants amounted to £87,000 with an additional £20,000 loan from the Cambridgeshire Historic Churches Trust, repaid in February 2023.
- (xi) Completion of nave ceiling, south aisle roof and south clerestory window repairs. Completion Certificate 08.12.23. Total cost of project, including unscheduled works and cleaning of chancel arch wall painting £134,658 + VAT = £160,324 (VAT recovered through Listed Places of Worship scheme. (See Fabric Report for details).
- (xii) Celebration of reopening of church 09.12.23 – reported in The Cambridge Independent 27.12.23.

- (xiii) New chalice and paten commissioned from Jonny Stokes and Alewijn Slingerland of the Bishopsland Educational Trust. Quotation 22.05.23 £6,500, then reduced to £6,000 (£2,167 paid). Quotation from Giles Munby to make new oak box for £375 + VAT; price of new Chubb Executive Model 65 safe from Insafe £1,145 + VAT, including installation. Settlement of claim with Ecclesiastical Insurance 18.10.23 (claim number 441411): £6,924 received – £6,000 for chalice and paten; £450 for new oak box; £100 for new alms dish; and £1,374 for new safe.
- (xiv) PCC Membership: departure of Team Vicar Stephen Day in August 2023 after 14 years with Papworth Team. Gift presented by PCC. NP agreed to take responsibility for Kingston and to become Chair of Kingston PCC. Torrie Smith co-opted to the PCC 01.02.24.
- (xv) Following SD's departure, consideration of future staffing arrangements for Team. PCC made representation to the Team Rector that a new Team Vicar be appointed to Bourn Vicarage as soon as possible.

#### 4. Finances to 31.12.2023

The main funding for the church has been donations by standing orders and income from the Endowment Fund. Grants totalling £1,584 were received from the Parish Council towards the upkeep of the churchyard and to subsidise the Parish and Church Magazine.

The annual accounts had not been audited this year as the Treasurer, KF, was away in the USA. A Treasurer's Annual Report had been circulated before the meeting which showed total income for the year to December 31<sup>st</sup> 2023 for the General Purposes Account as £285,190 (£25,891 in 2022) and expenditure £286,152 (£24,850 in 2022), with a deficit of income over expenditure of minus £962 (a surplus of £1,041 in 2022). Dividends from the Endowment Fund to 31.12.23 were £2,408 (£2,544 in 2022). Gift Aid tax refunds on donations amounted to £2,731 (£2,180 in 2022).

These income and expenditure sums include loans and monies transferred from the General Purposes Fund to the Restoration Fund and then the same sums transferred vice versa, so that some sums have been counted twice. The unaudited accounts therefore need amendment, analysis and audit.

An anonymous donation of £20,000 was received through the Charities Aid Foundation 25.05.23: this sum remains in the Restoration Fund, although it is the PCC's intention to transfer some or all of it to the Endowment Fund when the Restoration Fund is replenished.

#### Balances

Fund	31.12.2023	31.12.2022	31.12.2021	31.12.2020	31.12.2019
General	£8,689	£9,651	£8,610	£7,188	£12,818
Restoration	£29,522	£45,694	£26,029	£18,419	£22,776
Todd Fund	£811	£796	£786	£777	£767
Endowment	£57,043?	£57,043	£63,740	£57,021	£59,995

The Parish Ministry Share was increased from £6,758 in 2022 to £7,031 in 2023. Kingston's Team Share remained unchanged at £1,860.

#### 5. The Electoral Roll in March 2024 remains 20.

## 6. Attendance at services

### Average Sunday attendances

Service	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<b>H. C.</b>	5	6	7	6	5	6	6	5	5	4	5
<b>E. P.</b>	7	6	6	3	3	3	3	0	0	0	0
<b>F. S.</b>	13	13	14	10	10	10	10	11	5	5	7

### Attendance at the major festivals

Festival	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Easter	31	49	33	39	23	42	38	0	25	30	29
Harvest	16	21	26	17	32	27	21	20	12	12	15
Carol Service	75	31	[52]	[45]	36	35	35	0	15	15	21
Christmas Eve + Day	46	30	47	41	20	35	20	16	3	17	14
<b>Total</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>79</b>

Attendance at Holy Communion and at Family Service was stable but remained very low. There was better attendance for special services including a Team Service (29.02.23 – 51); a baptism (19.02.23 – 31); and for the service celebrating the coronation 07.05.23 – 20). The Harvest service and supper was held in the Village Hall.

Treasurer Kay Forsythe  
Secretary Peter Reynolds

Signed.....Chairperson

April 2023