

**Kingston Parish Council**  
**Minutes of Meeting held at 8.00pm on 14 March 2017**

**Present:**

Tim Fitzjohn, Chairman (TF)  
Julie Conder (JCo)  
James Clear (JCI)  
Peter Stokes, Clerk

Member of the public: Lina Joseph

**1. Apologies**

1.1. Keith Tan and Trish Dunlop

**2. Minutes of last meeting**

2.1. Accepted

**3. Matters Arising**

3.1. **3.2 LHI bid 2017:** We have been informed that work should start at the end of March.

3.2. **3.3 Parking sign for VH:** Clerk has procured, to put up on post as agreed. **Action: Clerk.**

3.3. **3.4 Stones for triangle outside 'Southcote':** not yet actioned. Action: Clerk.

3.4. **3.5 Car parking map:** not yet actioned. Action: Clerk.

3.5. **4.1.2 Demolished permissive path sign:** agreed to obtain metal post rather than wooden. Action: Clerk.

**4. Correspondence**

4.1. **Letter and emails from Toft PC** re damaged kissing gate: Clerk to attend site meeting requested by Peter Gaskin.

4.2. **Emails from Toft PC** re coalition of parish councils: it was agreed that:

4.2.1. KPC agrees with the submission to the inspector of the EIP hearing

4.2.2. KPC agrees with the revised Statement of Purpose

4.2.3. KPC agrees with the draft letter to the Secretary of State for Transport regarding Girton Interchange

4.2.4. TF and the Clerk will attend the next meeting of the coalition on the revised date of Monday 27 March, 1830 – 2100hrs at The Hub, Cambourne.

4.2.5. Clerk to advise coalition convenor. **Action: Clerk.**

4.3. **Email from NALC** re new sum per elector for expenditure under S137: the amount has been increased to £7.57. With 193 electors this gives a maximum spend under this heading of £1461.

4.4. **Email from SCDC** re parish council elections: all parish councils in South Cambridgeshire District will now hold their elections every 4 years, starting in 2018.

4.5. **Email from SLCC** re registering with the Information Commissioner's Office: parish councils are required to register each year. Agreed to proceed with this at an annual cost (at present) of £35.00. **Action: Clerk.**

4.6. **Email from CAPALC** re Lobby Day: noted.

- 4.7. **Email from Mark Nicholls** re blocked drain: Clerk has reported to CCC and informed Mark Nicholls.
- 4.8. **Email from Heather Ginn** suggesting that further soil and/or hardcore should be added to the triangle outside Southcote before placing stones (see minute 3.3). Clerk has replied to say that soil would be better added after the stones are placed to give a more 'bedded in' look.
- 5. County Councillor's report**
- 5.1. No report
- 6. District Councillor's report**
- 6.1. See Appendix A
- 7. Open Spaces report**
- 7.1. No report
- 8. Faster Broadband for Kingston report**
- 8.1. Part of the village is now served by Fibre to the Premises (FTTP) although the final connection to each house must be arranged by the householder through one of the suppliers offering the service.
- 8.2. A number of people are known to have applied but it is not known if anybody has actually been connected yet.
- 8.3. It is hoped that the rest of the village will have FTTP available before June 2017 – this second tranche includes the northern end of Church Lane and the western end of Crane's Lane.
- 9. Clerk's report**
- 9.1. **Bi-monthly report** – previously circulated. It was noted that the payment from CCC for grass cutting has been entered twice – Clerk to correct and re-circulate. See Appendix B. **Action: Clerk.**
- 9.2. **Invoices for payment:**
- 9.2.1. Buchan's Landscapes, grasscutting Sept 2016 £456.85 (confirmation only – already paid). Agreed for payment.
- 9.2.2. CCC street lighting energy £165.64. Agreed for payment.
- 9.2.3. Clerk's expenses £314.43. Agreed for payment.
- 9.3. **Grass cutting contract 2017:** agreed to award contract to Buchan's Landscapes at a price of £2311.18+VAT. This represents an increase of 1.18% over last year's price. The specification remains unchanged apart from the addition of a hedge on the south-western edge of the playground.
- 9.4. **Allotments:** information received by the Clerk indicates that it is not legal to permit allotment holders to sell surplus produce. Agreed to amend the sub-licence at the time of the next renewals. **Action: Clerk.**
- 9.5. **Tea-party on orchard 15 July:** agreed that as in 2015 KPC will organise a cream tea party on the Orchard to coincide with the PCC's Church Gift Day on 15 July. JCI will organise a team of volunteers to put up the marquee and move chairs, tables and other equipment from the village hall as required. The Clerk will find a volunteer from amongst the ladies of the village to lead a team organising the catering. **Action: JCI, Clerk.**
- 9.6. **Annual Parish Meeting 18 May:** it was agreed that this will be held with the same format as last year. TF will be away on holiday so JCI will preside.

**9.7. Village Hall improvements**

9.7.1. The Chairman of Kingston VHMC has advised that improvements to the outside area of the village hall (resurfacing, and repairs and extensions to the fence) are intended but are not likely to be commenced before May 2017.

9.7.2. At the meeting on 15 September 2015 (minute 9.1) KPC agreed in principle to make a grant of up to £4566.99 to Kingston VHMC for improvements to the outside area, this being the amount of a sum of money received under S106, eligible for use for a public open space, arising from the development at Summerhill.

9.7.3. Since that time a further sum of £1154.52 eligible for use for a public open space has become available under S106 in respect of development at Kingston Wood Farm.

9.7.4. The question arose as to whether the previously agreed grant should be increased to include the additional sum, since a suitable project requiring funding was immediately to hand, or whether the additional sum should be retained for some future project. It was agreed that this decision would be deferred until the estimated costs of this part of the project were known. Clerk to ascertain the costs and advise members. **Action: Clerk.**

**10. Planning**

10.1. **S/0455/17/TC** work on trees at Chaundlers, Church Lane: agreed no comment

10.2. **S/0483/17/TC** work on trees at Green Ley, Church Lane: agreed no comment

10.3. **S/2928/16/FL** work on porch and outbuilding at Pryor’s Cottage, Field Road: has been approved.

**11. Items for next meeting:** Agendas to be copied also to Lina Joseph in future.

**12. Date of next meeting:** 9 May: Parish Council meeting, 18 May: Annual Parish Meeting.

Meeting ended at 21:20

Signed.....

Date.....

## South Cambridgeshire District Councillor's Monthly Report March 2016

### 1. Finance – South Cambs District Council Budget for 2016-17

The SCDC budget for 2016/17 was debated at full council on 24 February 2016. All parties agreed that the budget was the best that we could have, given the very difficult situation the Council found itself, especially in light of the reduced funding from Westminster.

Estimated expenditure for the year is £17,821,580. The Council receives some grants from government, but is expected to generate the balance needed and/or find alternative income. The Revenue Support Grant (RSG) which was £1.806 million in 2015-16 is now reduced by £880,000 or 48.7% to just £0.92million for 2016-17. It is expected to reduce to £0 (yes, Zero) by 2018-19.

The Retained Business Rates (RBR) which is the proportion of the business rates we collect and retain for use within the district is expected to be £3.604 million. We will also receive a Rural Services Grant of £129,850 and a small transition grant of £75,840. We hope to get £5.265 million in New Homes Bonus. To balance the books the council needs to raise circa £7.852million from Council Tax!

The council agreed to increase council tax across the board by £5, which is an increase of 4% on the previous year. But if we didn't do that, we'd have a very big financial hole to fill. The table below shows the council tax bill for each village in the ward.

#### Caldecote

	£ Band A	£ Band B	£ Band C	£ Band D	£ Band E	£ Band F	£ Band G	£ Band H
County	778.08	907.76	1037.44	1167.12	1426.48	1685.84	1945.2	2334.24
Police	122.10	142.45	162.80	183.15	223.85	264.55	305.25	366.30
District	86.87	101.35	115.83	130.31	159.27	188.23	217.18	260.62
Fire	43.68	50.96	58.24	65.52	80.08	94.64	109.20	131.04
Parish	66.66	77.77	88.88	99.99	122.21	144.43	166.65	199.98
<b>Total</b>	<b>1097.39</b>	<b>1280.29</b>	<b>1463.19</b>	<b>1646.09</b>	<b>2011.89</b>	<b>2377.69</b>	<b>2743.48</b>	<b>3292.18</b>

#### Toft

	£ Band A	£ Band B	£ Band C	£ Band D	£ Band E	£ Band F	£ Band G	£ Band H
County	778.08	907.76	1037.44	1167.12	1426.48	1685.84	1945.2	2334.24
Police	122.10	142.45	162.80	183.15	223.85	264.55	305.25	366.30
District	86.87	101.35	115.83	130.31	159.27	188.23	217.18	260.62
Fire	43.68	50.96	58.24	65.52	80.08	94.64	109.20	131.04
Parish	41.24	48.11	54.99	61.86	75.61	89.35	103.10	123.72
<b>Total</b>	<b>1071.97</b>	<b>1250.63</b>	<b>1429.3</b>	<b>1607.96</b>	<b>1965.29</b>	<b>2322.61</b>	<b>2679.93</b>	<b>3215.92</b>

#### Kingston

	£ Band A	£ Band B	£ Band C	£ Band D	£ Band E	£ Band F	£ Band G	£ Band H
County	778.08	907.76	1037.44	1167.12	1426.48	1685.84	1945.2	2334.24
Police	122.10	142.45	162.80	183.15	223.85	264.55	305.25	366.30
District	86.87	101.35	115.83	130.31	159.27	188.23	217.18	260.62
Fire	43.68	50.96	58.24	65.52	80.08	94.64	109.20	131.04
Parish	48.37	56.43	64.49	72.55	88.67	104.79	120.92	145.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1079.10</b>	<b>1258.95</b>	<b>1438.8</b>	<b>1618.65</b>	<b>1978.35</b>	<b>2338.05</b>	<b>2697.75</b>	<b>3237.30</b>

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## For **Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC)**

The outlook is bleak – no increase in their council tax element means the County needs to find savings of almost £46million and cuts to adult social care services will be severe.

The County had an option to raise a further 2% Council Tax for social care only, which would have produced an additional £4.8 million to use for Adult Social Care. But the Conservatives and UKIPs voted against it. This means that the very vulnerable will be hard hit as the County cuts its budget back radically.

Over the period of the Business Plan (to 2020) CCC will have to find a further £22.m of annual revenue savings. Or to put into context in a different way the Council would have to cut one in four members of the entire workforce, 640 social workers, the complete removal of the physical disability service or two thirds of the children's care service.

## **2. Housing – Social and Private Rented**

Government has decreed that all councils with housing stock reduce rents by 1% each year for the next four years. This has thrown a spanner in the works for SCDC because its housing plans for the future was predicated on increasing rents to fund more house building.

In addition, the council is expected to sell off its most valuable properties as soon as they become void. Only 30% of the proceeds can be kept back to go toward building new council house stock. The rest goes to central government. Yet, the council is expected to build 2 houses for every 1 that it sells. The economics just does not add up.

Private landlords who help to alleviate the housing shortage are also under pressure as the Chancellor has decided to tax them on revenue and not profit (Clause 24 of the summer budget)—so the cost of mortgage borrowing which would have been deducted from rent, is now to be taxed as if it was income—with only a basic rate tax relief of 20%. Which means King Street Housing, who work with SCDC on this front, are now losing landlords with no prospect of signing up more. Private sector rents are also going up to make up for the increase in tax. All these measures have the makings of a rather large housing storm.

In light of the brewing housing storm, the SCDC budget now includes a sum of £250,000 set aside to provide accommodation and other assistance for those who may be made homeless and/or require assistance from the Council. Currently SCDC is only able to rehouse those with an A Banding (actually homeless or in immediate danger of becoming homeless)

During the debate at the Budget setting full council meeting last week, we urged the Administration to be proactive in preventing homelessness. I also urged them to have a word with their Westminster colleagues to explain to them the impact of the new policies on the Council budget, and to seek some relief or exemption.

I still urge those concerned about the cumulative impact of selling off council housing and not having enough money to build new ones and potential increase in private sector rents forcing more people into poverty to write to our MP, Heidi Allen at [heidi.allen.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:heidi.allen.mp@parliament.uk)

## **Ermine Street (ES LTD)**

This is the Council owned Private Housing Company that was set up to buy and build housing as a landlord in the private rented sector. The pilot project was successful and so the a further £120 million of capital has been made available to the company.

SCDC borrows at a favourable low rate, lends to ES at market rates. The rental income generated by ES pays the interest on the SCDC loan helping SCDC generate much needed income to plug the funding gap in grants it receives from central government.

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### **3. Changes to Planning Scheme of Delegation**

SCDC (South Cambridgeshire District Council) has made changes to how it considers planning applications and the role of Parish Councils in that process. It had an initial round of consultations back in autumn 2015, and received 27 responses. There was concern that the role of Parishes would be minimised by the proposals – mainly that Local Members only would be able to ask for an application to go to committee, and so the Portfolio Holder addressed that concern.

It is agreed that “All applications would be delegated (to Officers) other than application (i) where the Local Member or Parish Council requests for it to be considered by committee, giving sound planning reasons and the request is accepted by Chairman of the committee (ii) is made by an elected Member or Officer of the Council or a member of their household (iii) that would be a significant departure from the approved policies of the Council (iv) that is major or minor application for development on the Council’s own land and there are objections to it (v) for the demolition of a listed building or one with local interest and (vi) that by reason of special planning policy consideration, is complex or has significant/strategic importance to the area/parish.

If an application by the Parish is accepted, then it is important that someone from the Parish Council attend the planning meeting to support their comments!

### **4. Business Support Workshops**

The Business workshops being run by SCDC and Huntingdonshire District Council through Nwes is still running, up to April 2016. It provides 28 free business skills workshops that could help businesses – and include business startup, planning, marketing, finance, customer acquisition and social media.

Nwes is a local enterprise agency established in 1982 and claims to be the UK’s largest not-for-profit Enterprise Agency working in partnership to provide total business support and encourage entrepreneurial skills in East of England.

Anyone interested can contact Nwes on 08456 099091, or email [info@nwes.org.uk](mailto:info@nwes.org.uk) or visit the website at <http://www.nwes.org.uk/news/free-business-support-workshops-offered-in-huntingdonshire-and-south-cambridgeshire>

### **5. South Cambridgeshire Local Development Plan Update**

The Planning Portfolio Holder will be holding a meeting next week to approve the changes that are being proposed to the submission, these being the results from the consultation responses. This new revision will then be presented to full council on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2016, after which if approved by full council (more than likely due to the Tory majority), will be submitted to the Planning Inspector. Then we wait to see if the Inspector decides the information is sufficient to continue with the examination of the full plan.

### **6. Bourn Airfield – Wincanton Application for Storage**

The application by the land owner and Wincanton to use one of the air strips at Bourn Airfield for storage of containers was given approval by the planning committee at its meeting on Wed 3rd February. Formal approval not yet issued as it is awaiting the final draft of the planning obligations regarding (1) the routing plan (to explain how lorries would access the A14 northbound and the M11 southbound without using local roads) and (2) setting up of a liaison group with local residents to speedily resolve any problems.

### **7. Development Proposal by Gladmans for 140 Houses in Caldecote**

The application has been delayed and did not go to planning in March as originally expected.

However, there still remains the outstanding issue of the projection for school places – County council officers have indicated there is no need for extra spaces if the application is granted – on

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the basis that the number of school children in the village will be declining. This was in response to a letter written to the County by the School Head Teacher expressing concern at lack of consultation with the school, and explaining numbers are increasing not decreasing.

But even more shocking is that the county will not object due to legal advice received not to object to proposed development on the basis that they cannot mitigate the impact of development. To do so would place the council at risk of challenge through a planning appeal process with a high risk of needing to meet developers cost. They have also identified a drop in number of school age children in a village with a growing population! Go figure!!

## **8. Community Awards Celebration**

The sixth annual Community Awards celebration is taking place on Thursday 10 March 2016. The number of awards categories has been increased from five to six, in order to provide the best possible snapshot of local business and community activity, and to say thank you to the amazing individuals, groups and businesses that contribute massively to their communities.

There are some nominees from within the Ward, especially for the Village Hero award, and I wish every nominee the very best of luck and hope we have a winner to celebrate.

## **9. Casework/Councillor Drop-in surgery**

Please do feel free to contact me with comments, questions, problems, reports, suggestions or complaints to do with SCDC services (housing, planning, benefits, council tax, bin collection etc).

Drop-in surgery normally takes place on the first Thursday of every month, 7pm – 8pm at the Caldecote Village Hall and first Monday of every month, 6pm – 7pm at the Toft People's Hall. However, 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.

*Tumi*

Tumi Hawkins  
08-March-2016

<b>Email me @:</b>	<a href="mailto:tumi@tumihawkins.org.uk">tumi@tumihawkins.org.uk</a>
<b>Follow on twitter:</b>	<a href="http://twitter.com/CouncillorTumi">http://twitter.com/CouncillorTumi</a>
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<b>Read my blog at:</b>	<a href="http://www.TumiHawkins.org.uk">http://www.TumiHawkins.org.uk</a>
<b>Call me on:</b>	01954 210840

Appendix B

**Financial report 28 Mar 2017**

N.B. All figures exclude VAT

Item	Budget 2016-17 £	Expenditure YTD £	Budget minus expenditure YTD £	
Grass and Hedge cutting	2032	2085	-53	
Insurance	399	412	-13	
Clerk's salary	1141	970	172	
Grants (section 137)	667	100	567	
Village Hall upgrade	1288	1288	0	
Audit fees	40	144	-104	
Village asset maintenance	450	835	-385	
Subscriptions	226	291	-65	
Parish Magazine	475	0	475	
Footpath lighting	161	0	161	Invoice to be approved at Mar mtg
Miscellaneous and expenses	720	201	519	
Income other than precept	-125	-99	-26	
<b>Total</b>	<b>7475</b>	<b>6227</b>		

<b>Bank balances</b>	Current account:	3025
	Deposit account:	18409
<b>S106 money (included in above)</b>	'Open space'	5721
	'Community facility'	945