

# Kingston Parish Council

## Minutes of Meeting held at 8.00pm on 10 March 2020

James Clear, Chair (JCI)  
Julie Conder (JCo)  
Miki Ellar (ME)  
Katherine Reid (KR)  
Sue Dalglish (SD)  
Peter Stokes, Clerk

Members of the public: Rachel Hooper, Mike Beadman, Simon Gardner, Sarah Denley.

### 1. Apologies

1.1. Tumi Hawkins, SCDC

### 2. Minutes of last meeting

2.1. Accepted

### 3. Matters Arising

3.1. 3.1 Letter from Crane's Lane resident re condition of road: Lina Nieto has agreed in an email to follow up on this matter – Clerk to check on progress.

3.2. 5.1 Emergency Plan (JCo and SD): there is still no response from SCDC. Following receipt of a letter from a resident offering to volunteer to help villagers who were ill or self-isolating in the current outbreak of Covid-19, it was agreed that the emergency plan should include a brief section on dealing with a pandemic, to include for example the recruiting of volunteers to carry out shopping or other services for those ill or in isolation. **Action: SD.**

3.3. 8.4 S106 funds and possible village hall project: the Village Hall Management Committee has applied for a grant from SCDC to purchase comfortable furniture and coffee tables. When these have been installed, the committee will gauge reactions and consider the addition of a carpet. The intention is that the carpet would be paid for out of the agreed KPC grant.

3.4. 8.5 Clearing of overgrown area at playground: agreed to be carried out by PS and JCI on 21 March. **Action: PS, JCI.**

3.5. 4.6 Free trees voucher: agreed that KR will purchase 3 oak saplings with the voucher, and a bag of compost if possible. PS and JCI to plant on the south-eastern boundary of the playground on 21 March. **Action: KR.**

3.6. 9.5 Proposed programme of tree work at The Old Rectory: Simon Gardner and Sarah Denley explained that the work was 'Phase 1' of a longer-term plan to correct many decades of neglect. They only wish to remove trees which are either unhealthy or which are crowding other trees. When this work is complete, they will review the whole garden with a view to planning Phase 2 - planting trees to create an overall balanced and landscaped effect. They have already planted willows around the ponds. It was suggested that to put villagers' minds at rest and to keep them informed, Simon and Sarah would submit an article to the parish magazine explaining their plans, and they have agreed to do this.

### 4. Correspondence

4.1. Letter from Kingston PCC thanking KPC for the grants: noted.

4.2. 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> letters from leader of SCDC updating procedure for planning items referred to planning committee: no further action.

- 4.3. Emails from resident re possible coordinated action to influence final route of new railway: see minute 8.3.
- 4.4. Email from Local Projects team re change to application window for LHI projects / email from Lina Nieto re meeting about LHI projects: noted.
- 4.5. Email from resident re footpath between Field Road and Tinkers Lane: it was suggested that there should be a 'public footpath' signpost and steps leading up to the start of the path. It was agreed to pursue the matter of the sign with the CCC footpaths team, but that the steps were not necessary.
- 4.6. Email from two residents re poor condition of footpaths and standing area at bus stop: agreed to ask Steve Wilson to quote to improve the area.
- 4.7. Email from resident re vehicle parking in Crane's Lane: agreed that the Clerk would approach the residents causing the obstruction with a view to reaching an amicable solution.

## **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. None

## **8. Clerk's report**

- 8.1. Bi-monthly report: see Appendix B

- 8.2. Invoices for payment:

- 8.2.1. Renewal of Cambridgeshire ACRE subscription £57.00 (already paid): agreed for payment.

- 8.2.2. Renewal of CAPALC subscription £186.73 (excl DPO scheme): Agreed for payment. It was agreed that KPC would not pay the additional £50.00 to cover up to one hour's advice on Data Protection, since the likelihood of having any need of such advice other than very occasionally was considered to be extremely remote.

- 8.2.3. Opus Energy, footway lighting energy, £90.39: following complaints by KPC regarding earlier incorrect invoices, and the re-issue of invoices by Opus Energy together with an explanation of their method of calculation, it was agreed to accept these invoices, but to monitor invoicing to ensure that the annual total does not exceed the estimated annual expected total of approx. £302. Note that this and future invoices will be paid by Direct Debit.

- 8.3. East West Railway: It was agreed that for the present KPC's response to the threat that the chosen route for the new railway between Bedford and Cambridge could run close to Kingston would be as follows:

- 8.3.1. Further activity may be agreed when we know more clearly the exact route, which it appears will pass either between Kingston and Toft, or between Toft and Comberton.

- 8.3.2. It was agreed to appoint a Parish Councillor to be Kingston's representative at any relevant meetings. Sue Dalgleish agreed to fulfil this role.

- 8.3.3. Bourn PC is believed to be forming a 'coalition of parish councils' in the area to work together for the mutual benefit of the represented parishes. It was agreed to contact the convener, Steve Jones to register Kingston's interest.

8.3.4. Our appointed EWR rep, and anybody else interested, will attend the 'road show event at Comberton Village Hall on 28 March, 3.30 – 7.00pm.

8.4. New Internal Auditor: rather belatedly, CAPALC have sent out an email to all Cambridgeshire parishes, asking them to give details of their Internal Auditors, so that CAPALC can compile a list for the use of parish councils. KPC's internal audit should be completed by 12 May at the latest so the Parish Councillors can approve the accounts at the Parish Council meeting on that date.

**9. Planning**

9.1. S0127/20/FL application for 3 wildlife ponds at New Farm, Old Wimpole Road. Agreed to respond 'support'.

9.2. 20/01142/HFUL application for construction of a garden building at Wychwood, Cranes Lane: The Reynolds have advised they have no objection. Agreed to respond 'no comment'.

**10. Other matters**

10.1. ME mentioned that she thought there had, in the distant past, been a sign at the beginning of the bridle path part of Crane's Lane requesting horse-riders to keep to one side, so that the other side was less damaged by hooves making it more pleasant for walkers. The sign is no longer in place and ME wondered if it should be replaced. Agreed to discuss at the next meeting.

**Date of next meeting:** 12 May 2020

Meeting ended at 22:05

Signed.....

Date.....

## South Cambridgeshire District Council – Caldecote Ward

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

### Councillor's Monthly Report – March 2020

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

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#### 1 General

Please do feel free to contact me with comments, questions, problems, reports, suggestions or complaints to do with SCDC services. These are housing, housing repairs for council tenants, planning, benefits, council tax, bin collection, environmental health issues etc. Don't fight on your own. I am available to help you to get the best outcome possible for your situation.

If you have time to spare – check out articles on my blog <http://www.TumiHawkins.org.uk>. What I post on there is my view and not LibDem or South Cambs official policy unless I state that it is.

#### 2 Planning

##### 2.1 Greater Cambridge Local Plan – The First Conversation

**The First Conversation** ended on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2020. I want to say a big thank you to everyone who took time to attend any of the roadshow events, and/or contributed comments or feedback on the issues we consulted on. Using social media for the first time in such a consultation, we had 10,000 instagram hits and over 25,000 views of the explanatory video.

I was particularly impressed with the turn out at The Big Debate, at The Corn Exchange. We had 7 presentations from local groups from both Cambridge City and South Cambs. The event was packed out with over 300 attendees. There was a lively debate in the Q&A sessions with lots of questions to the speakers. The kids from the Eco Council no doubt stole the show.

Officers will be collating and analysing the responses over the spring period. In the meantime, we are commissioning a number of projects to provide the evidence that we need to make the plan. I will continue to update you on these issues.

##### 2.2 Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service (GCPS)

The new planning software system (Uniform-idox) went live on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2020. The good news is that the capabilities of the new system will enable Parish Councils, residents groups and individuals to closely track progress on planning applications. A special thank you to all the 44 Parishes that sent over 70 councillors and/or clerks to the training that we put on to help learn how to access and use the new system. We hope to put on some more training in the future.

The new system is also enabling the authority to go paperless with planning applications processing. This will result in massive savings as the use of paper is reduced significantly.

The implementation of the new ICT system also means we can now implement the new area planning teams. These became effective at the beginning of this week, as officers moved to their nominated/preferred base of work, with some previously based at South Cambs hall moving to the Guildhall and vice versa. As I reported previously, two area teams will work on applications in both council areas, whilst one area team will work on applications just in the City.

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We are planning events for residents, parish councils etc., to introduce the teams and explain how it will all work – watch this space for more information and timing when the plan is ready.

We would welcome your comments, compliments as well as complaints. This is the one way we know we can get feedback that will enable us to improve the service that we provide to residents.

## **2.3 Planning Committee and Scheme of Delegation**

As previously report, the current scheme was put in place in 2016 when the district was going through some difficulties. The Shared planning service now operates 3 planning committees and part of the restructure included reviewing how these committees work and see how they could be improved. We are in the process of commissioning the Planning Advisory Service, independent organisation, to carry out the review, working on the South Cambs scheme first. We expect the review work to start in the next few weeks.

## **3 Environmental Health & Licensing**

### **3.1 Taxi Licensing**

The safety of passengers using taxis within the district has been tightened another. Full council voted to adopt the new taxi licensing policy, which was put together after consultations with the wider public. The new policy takes effect from 1 April 2020 and requires all taxis to have CCTV in the cab. Also to improve air quality, new licenses will be granted to taxis that are ultra-low or zero emission, or those that are less than nine years old.

The CCTV footage will be encrypted and stored securely in the vehicle and will automatically be erased after 28 days. Drivers and operators will be unable to access the data and the images will only be accessible to the police or licensing authority via a formal request to the Council following an incident.

## **4 Business and Finance**

### **4.1 SCDC Budget**

£5 million has been pledged in South Cambridgeshire to tackle the global climate emergency. The money will go towards improvements linked to the District Council's 'green to the core' priorities. This includes improving the Council's offices to cut carbon emissions and energy bills, providing communities with grants for projects that cut carbon emissions in their areas, making Council houses more energy efficient and helping people cut the amount of food they waste.

In 2018 the Council declared a climate emergency and pledged to reach net zero carbon by 2050. To help move toward that goal the Council plans to invest in 2020-21a further £100,000 on Zero Carbon Community grants for community initiatives to cut carbon emissions and tackle climate change, £1.9 million 'greening' of its offices to cut energy bills and show others how they could go green and a further £1.3 million on improving energy efficiency of Council homes.

In addition £1.3m will replace 1,800 District Council owned streetlights with LEDs to reduce energy consumption by 60% and £400,000 on an electric bin lorry to see whether it is viable to shift from a diesel to an all-electric fleet.

In 2020-21 the Council expects to generate over £3.5 million from investments which will be spent on local services and help offset cuts to their funding by central Government. The Council's budget

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also proposes investing an extra £200,000 in expanding the mobile warden scheme in the district. Local Mobile Warden groups support older people to live independently by carrying out practical tasks such as making light meals, shopping, making appointments, filling in forms and collecting prescriptions.

A further £200,000 is also planned to be invested in increasing support for local businesses so that villages remain vibrant and new jobs are created close to where people live.

## **5 Governance**

### **5.1 VE Day celebrations**

Friday May 8 has been declared VE day and a special public holiday. The Council is inviting people to apply for a Community Chest grant for up to £1,000 to fund projects that will help residents mark the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the guns falling silent at the end of the war. The deadline to apply for grants has been extended until 15 March.

A number of national events have been planned over the three-day period to include the playing of specially written musical tributes to highlight the Nation's Toast to the Heroes of WW2. There will also be a Cry for Peace around the World and all Churches and Cathedrals are being asked to take part in sessions of Ringing out for Peace. Street parties and parties in pubs, clubs, Hotels, on town and village greens and in halls etc will be the plans for the Saturday and services of commemoration and celebration in churches, including the reading of the Tribute to the Millions and the playing of the Last Post on the Sunday.

## **6 Roads/Transport**

### **6.1 Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA)**

In February the Mayor announced that the CPCA would take control of public transport improvements in the area. A decision on the final route for the Cambourne to Cambridge Guided Busway Scheme was due to be made at the GCP's Executive Board on 19 Feb but the papers were pulled after the Mayor's announcement, in which he said that the plans didn't fit with his plans for the Cambridge Autonomous Metro. This despite the fact that the GCP has been working alongside the Mayor's office, which had not raised any concerns about the GCP proposals.

The proposals included delivering phase one of the CAM including connections to Cambourne, Waterbeach, Granta Park and towards Newmarket. So the Mayor's announcement is completely at odds with recent Combined Authority decisions.

The Combined Authority plans a meeting on 6 March to consider proposals which would include an interim solution for the Cambourne to Cambridge route that would not involve "flooding the city with buses.

### **6.1 East West Rail**

Please don't forget to sign up for more information as the project progresses at <https://eastwestrail.co.uk/>. The site also has a number of useful maps and documents. The EWR company is holding a series of events during this month where those interested can go and talk to

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the officers and find out how the line might impact them especially if they live or work anywhere near the “route corridor”.

## 7 Ward Issues

### 7.1 Bourn

On 29th February I attended the event launching the Wysing Arts Centre 2020 programme. I didn't get to Wicken Fen but went to Wysing where I saw the new commission by 2019 Turner Prize winning artist, Helen Cammock and met the Wysing studio artist, Naomi Harwin and saw her works too. Both events were well attended and I highly recommend visiting Wysing and supporting their works.

### 7.2 Caldecote

#### Linden Homes

I expect the Discharge of Condition 23 application to go to Planning committee in March

## 8 Casework

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

*Tumi*

Tumi Hawkins  
5 March 2020

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## Appendix B

**Financial report 11 Mar 2020**

N.B. All figures exclude VAT

Item	Budget 2019/20 £	Expenditure YTD £	Budget minus expenditure YTD £	
Grass and Hedge cutting	2087	2120	-34	
Insurance	402	367	35	
Clerk's salary	1250	1166	84	
Grants (section 137)	991	840	151	
Village Hall upgrade	1288	1288	0	
Audit fees	44	43	1	
Village asset maintenance	750	592	159	
Subscriptions	368	363	5	
Parish Magazine	521	752	-231	
Footpath lighting	201	455	-254	
Miscellaneous and expenses	1500	829	671	
Income other than precept	-150	-100	-50	
<b>Total</b>	<b>9251</b>	<b>8715</b>		

<b>Bank balances</b>	Current account:	2401
	Deposit account:	13350
<b>S106 money (included in above)</b>	'Open space'	0
	'Community facility'	945