

Kingston Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting held at 8.00pm on 12 January 2021

This was a virtual meeting, held online using 'Zoom' for audio and video.

Present:

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

1. Apologies

1.1. None

2. Minutes of last meeting

2.1. Accepted

3. Matters arising

3.1. 4.1 Emergency Plan: no further progress. Tumi Hawkins asked if the draft plan included provision for a flooding emergency. It was agreed that although the village itself was unlikely to be flooded due to its height, there should be a planned course of action if the roads leading out of the village become flooded and impassable. **Action SD and JCo.**

3.2. 4.2 East West railway: it was felt that the Cambridge Approaches group are now taking a more reasoned and focussed approach to their campaign, in contrast with the earlier slightly aggressive and alarmist approach. It was agreed that their online petition for consideration of the 'Northern Route' is well-argued, and deserves support. Agreed that residents should again be reminded of the petition and encouraged to sign it.

3.3. 4.3 Accessibility Regulations for the website: work is continuing.

3.4. 4.4 Kingston phone box: the contract has been signed and returned to BT.

3.5. 4.5 Oak tree in the VH car park: Peter Reynold's arborist has viewed the tree, and said that in his view we should cut off the lower limbs which are causing obstruction. He does not believe the tree poses any danger to the village hall. Agreed that Greater Cambridge Planning will be notified, and JCI and PS will carry out the work as soon after the statutory notice period has expired as can be conveniently arranged.

3.6. 5.3 Proposed sign in Crane's Lane

3.6.1. KR has received a response from James Stringer, Definitive Map Officer from CCC, saying that any new signage would need the permission of the affected landowner, and any wording would need to be agreed with the County Council in advance. Subject to these provisos he felt that signage could be erected politely asking horse riders to use one side. However, he felt that a sign might have the opposite effect to that

desired, and that muddy bridleways are unfortunately a fact of life at this time of year.

- 3.6.2. It was noted that a horse-riding resident had objected to the erection of such a sign, also pointing out that as well as mud on bridleways there were other nuisances possibly requiring signs, such as dogs running free and harassing horses.
- 3.6.3. It was also noted that for most of the length of Crane's Lane there is an alternative footpath, unavailable to horse riders. Although this too is muddy, and at present has a large puddle making progress difficult, this is the nature of country walking in winter.
- 3.6.4. It was agreed that a sign was not required in view of these considerations.
- 3.7. 5.4 Request from Chris Reid for approval of his proposal to pursue a change of charitable status of Kingston Village Hall Committee: it was agreed that KPC supports this proposal.
- 3.8. 5.5 Repairs to fence at The Swards: now complete.
- 3.9. 7.2 Two trees on Campbell-Orchard boundary: Peter Reynold's arborist has viewed these trees, of which one is dead, the other has a main trunk which appears dead.
 - 3.9.1. The arborist agreed that the dead tree should be removed. He believed it was a greengage tree, and might re-grow.
 - 3.9.2. He thought the dead trunk of the second tree should be removed, but it is not necessary to remove the side shoots which are alive. He believes this also to be a greengage tree.
 - 3.9.3. Both trees are on the boundary between the Campbell's property and the Orchard, which belongs to the Parish Council, and it is not known to which party they belong. It was agreed that the work would be carried out by volunteers, with the agreement of both parties.
 - 3.9.4. It was agreed that notification would be given to Greater Cambridge Planning Authority of KPC's intention to carry out the work.

4. Correspondence

- 4.1. Email from PCC requesting grants for the magazine (£559.40) and for churchyard maintenance (£670.00). As both these amounts are less than the amounts budgeted it was agreed that they would be paid as requested.
- 4.2. Email from a resident advising that an unknown person had, without permission or discussion, dug channels across the verge outside his house, apparently to drain standing water in the road.
 - 4.2.1. The result of this action had been to send the water into his front garden which is now flooded. The resident has requested that a general email is sent round the village asking people not to carry out such actions without discussion with the householder.
 - 4.2.2. It was agreed that whilst KPC deplores the action taken, and is sympathetic to the resident, the best way to resolve such matters is by discussion. The culprit is likely to be a close neighbour, so it should not be difficult to find the person responsible and reach an amicable conclusion.

- 4.3. Email from a resident advising that he frequently encounters dog fouling in the footpath extension to Field Road. Filled dog waste bags are sometimes left, possibly with the intention (unfulfilled) of collecting on the 'return journey'. The resident frequently clears these up himself. It was agreed that:
 - 4.3.1. SCDC would be requested to install dog waste or dual use bins at two points: the end of the tarmac on Field Road just past The White House, and at the start of the track/footpath on Bourn Road leading to South Sea Farm barns.
 - 4.3.2. Signs would be put up at both locations asking dog owners to clear up after their pets.
 - 4.3.3. A notice would be put in the parish magazine.
- 4.4. Email from a resident advising that the three footway lights in Crane's Lane are not working. They are in the process of being upgraded to LED operation, but work appears to have stopped. The Clerk is taking the matter up with SCDC.
- 4.5. Email from Cambridge Council for Voluntary Service offering grants of up to £500 for small groups working to support families with children with food, fuel or other essential supplies. Payments to individual families are in the form of vouchers. The Clerk has passed details to the trustees of the Kingston charity. Agreed to also put an item in the magazine.

5. County Councillor's report

- 5.1. No report

6. District Councillors report

- 6.1. See Appendix A

7. Open Spaces report

- 7.1. No report

8. Clerk's report

- 8.1. Bi-monthly report: previously circulated. See Appendix B.
- 8.2. Invoices for payment:
 - 8.2.1. Opus Energy footway lighting energy Nov 2020 £29.92: agreed for payment (direct debit).
 - 8.2.2. Opus Energy footway lighting energy Dec 2020 £33.28: agreed for payment (direct debit).
 - 8.2.3. Clerk's salary for Dec 2020 £85.30 (already paid): agreed for payment.
 - 8.2.4. HMRC PAYE for Dec 2020 £21.20 (already paid): agreed for payment.
 - 8.2.5. Clerk's salary for Jan 2021 £85.10: agreed for payment.
 - 8.2.6. HMRC PAYE for Jan 2021 £21.40: agreed for payment.
 - 8.2.7. SLCC Local Council Administration 12th ed. £123.80: agreed for payment.
 - 8.2.8. Peter Reynolds materials for fence repair £15.04: agreed for payment.
 - 8.2.9. SLCC membership subscription 2021 £67.00: agreed for payment.
 - 8.2.10. Peter Stokes Clerk's expenses 16/07/2020 – 15/12/2020 £117.45: agreed for payment.

- 8.3. Parish Budget and precept
 - 8.3.1. The draft budget was accepted, see Appendix C.
 - 8.3.2. The precept for 2021/22 was set at £10,311.
- 8.4. Appointment of new Parish Clerk
 - 8.4.1. The appointment of Mimi Wheeler as the new Parish Clerk was confirmed. Although her contract of employment has been fully signed and gives the start date as 1 February 2021, it was agreed that in view of the current lockdown situation, this date is not a practical one. Ms Wheeler's start date will therefore be deferred until further notice.
 - 8.4.2. In the meantime, it was agreed to increase the present Clerk's salary to £1627, the starting salary agreed for the new Clerk, with effect from 1 January 2021.
- 8.5. The Clerk advised that the Toft Shop Collection Scheme had been re-started, with a rota of volunteers making daily collections of orders from the shop and delivering to residents.

9. Planning

- 9.1. None

10. Items for next meeting

- 10.1. None

11. Date for next meeting

- 11.1. 9 March 2021.

The meeting ended at 21:45.

Signed:

Date:.....

South Cambridgeshire District Council – Caldecote Ward

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

Councillor's Monthly Report – January 2021

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

General

Welcome to 2021. Please contact me with comments, questions, problems, reports, suggestions or complaints to do with SCDC services. These are housing need, 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.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

These are items in my previous reports that require action due to time limitations.

1. Green Homes Grant scheme

Government funding to make homes more energy efficient to help you saving money on household bills. **The scheme closes on 31 March 2021.** It could up to two thirds to full cost of improvements, from £5000 to £10,000 depending on your circumstances. Find out more if you are eligible at <https://greenhomesgrant.campaign.gov.uk/?> and <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-the-green-homes-grant-scheme>.

2. Luton Airport Flight Path Consultation.

There is an ongoing consultation by London Luton Airport (LLA). Proposed changes could see incoming flights stacked at or above approximately 8,000ft and then approach Luton via some of our villages into the airport. With the Westerly operations, the route for descent into Luton may likely affect parts of Bourn, Longstowe and Little Gransden. For the Easterly operations, Little Gransden is the closest to the route option corridor. **The consultation closes on 5th February 2021.**

See my comments at <https://tumihawkins.org.uk/flight-stacking-changes-at-london-luton-airport/>

3. Broadband Voucher Scheme

Those that are suffering from low broadband speeds (less than 30 Mbps) can still take advantage of the Government's Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme

<https://www.connectingcambridgeshire.co.uk/funding-schemes/rural-gigabit-voucher-scheme/>.

The Voucher is worth up to £3500 for small businesses and £1500 for residential premises. It remains **open till 31 March 2021** or until the funds run out. The funds can then be used to commission service from suppliers such a BT or others.

Also Connecting Cambridgeshire has secured £500,000 extra **“top-up” funding from the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority** to provide an additional “top-up” of £1,500 per premise.

Check out my comments here <https://tumihawkins.org.uk/broadband-for-rural-communities/>

4. Planning Pre-Application Service

I reported on this last month and though is not time critical, it is important for anyone considering building works that may require planning permission in 2021 and beyond.

The Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service has launched an improved pre-application planning advice service. The new service offers a wide range of planning advice from a 15 minute free consultation with a planner about minor household applications, through to paid-for specialist advice on a number of aspects of planning, including listed building expertise, ecology and housing. There is a menu of service levels to choose from.

The aim of the service is to help potential applicants develop the best quality proposals that will meet with planning requirements which should lead to applications being validated and decided more quickly. Read more about it on our website.

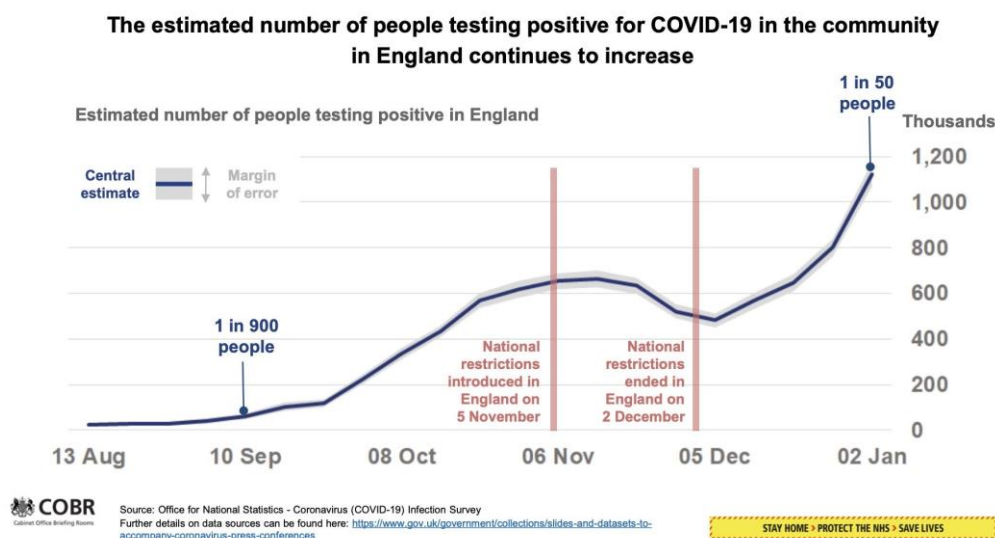
<https://www.scams.gov.uk/improved-planning-advice-service-for-greater-cambridge-launched/>

COVID19 UPDATE

Good news is that there are now two vaccines licensed for use in the UK namely the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/regulatory-approval-of-pfizer-biontech-vaccine-for-covid-19>) and the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/regulatory-approval-of-covid-19-vaccine-astrazeneca>). They have both gone through all the testing and approval processes and are certified to be safe. Two doses of vaccinations are required for both to give the best protection possible. The vaccines are currently available through your GP surgery. It will be made more widely available as soon as the government can arrange it.

Phase 1 rollout will be on the basis of health care workers at risk, people who live or work in care homes, and age groups from 80+ working down to 50+, as these people are expected to represent 99% of those who are likely to die from the disease. The next phase will then be those at high risk of exposure and/or key workers delivery public services.

Bad news is that Lockdown 3 started with effect from 12.01am on 4th January 2021, and will continue until mid February at least when the Government will review its' effectiveness. The district had only just moved from Tier 2 to Tier 4, but now in full lockdown. Unfortunately, the mutant Covid19 strain spreads quicker and faster and has resulted in the rapid increase in infections over the last 2-3 weeks.



In the meantime, we must all **stay at home**. The new guidelines are more stringent than previous guidelines. No one must leave home except to shop for essential food, if they cannot work from home, or to exercise. Schools and colleges are closed, except for children of those who are key

workers. Those who are clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV) who shielded the last time must shield again now and not leave home except for medical appointments. I have listed some of the important guidelines here but you will also find more details on the government website here <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-lockdown-stay-at-home#summary-what-you-can-and-cannot-do-during-the-national-lockdown> .

Please make use of the various support groups that are available within your communities for shopping, collecting medicine, etc.

Support for Businesses

The local business directory at <https://www.scams.gov.uk/local-business-directory> is still there to help residents find out more about what local businesses are offering. The listings include details of Covid-secure measures that businesses have put in place, and information about current opening arrangements/online ordering/click and collect facilities.

Following the new national lockdown, we are awaiting further information government and the Business Support Group will be in contact with local businesses when we have established an application process. For the most up to date information and full details of current available grants, including eligibility criteria and application processes, visit our website: <https://www.scams.gov.uk/business/coronavirus-information-for-businesses/financial-support-for-business/> or email our BusinessGrants@scams.gov.uk or openforbusiness@scams.gov.uk The team hope to reply emails within 24-48 hours as they are very busy.

Shop Local Directory

The directory that was created in December is still available and open to businesses to register on it. It is an initiative to help local businesses and to encourage residents to “shop local”. If you are a customer facing business, consider registering if you have not done so already. It is free to register at <https://www.scams.gov.uk/local-business-directory>.

We continue to encourage everyone to shop local and use the directory.

Support for Education

South Cambs council has made available £30,000 in funding to help vulnerable people and those in need including digitally-excluded children to get online. It is in addition to the Government’s winter support grant scheme. The charity Cambridge Online is running this on our behalf. Contact them by email using help@cambridgeonline.org.uk or call the Cambridge Online helpline on 01223 300407, quoting ‘South Cambs Winter Support Grant’. Their website is at <http://cambridgeonline.org.uk/>

PLANNING

Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service (GCSPS)

PAS Review report on Planning Committee

As I previously reported, as part of its improvement program, the Shared Planning Service requested a Peer review of its three **planning committees** by the independent Planning Advisory Service (PAS). The report has now been released and can be found on our website at <https://scams.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s120312/Appendix%20A%20-%20Peer%20Review%20Final%20Report%202020.pdf>

It is a comprehensive report that recognises the strengths of the planning committee process, and the quality of its decision making. It is gratifying to note the praise given for responding speedily to the Covid19 issue by adopting new online working processes and procedures, and the focus on public engagement. It also said the current scheme of delegation which we put in place back in June is

more transparent as it has clear criteria for referral to committee and detailed reporting to Parish Councils on the outcomes of their referral.

Nevertheless, there are issues to be improved upon. Building a culture of trust between Councillors and officers, improving report writing, briefings for committee members and clear, providing timely advice from planners and legal officers during meetings, a key area that needs to be examined.

The Scheme of Delegation to be kept under review. More training will be provided for Parish Councils and improved communications are key. We have agreed to establish a Planning Development Group to take forward the 8 recommendations made in the Peer review report.

New Town Aspiration by Thakeham

Early in December there was a bit of a furore over the announcement by Thakeham, a speculative development company, over its plans for a new town of 25,000 homes in the south west of the district. The broad area would encompass the villages of Shepreth, Melbourn, Meldreth, Whaddon, Bassingbourn, Wimpole, Orwell, Barrington and Foxton. The new town, dubbed 'South West Cambridge,' would profoundly change the hinterland of a multitude of villages and eradicate the rural nature of much of South Cambridgeshire.

I emphasise the comments in the council news release at <https://www.scams.gov.uk/new-town-proposals-to-be-considered-alongside-650-other-suggested-locations-for-new-homes-and-jobs/> and also on BBC radio cambridgeshire interview on it. It is an aspiration which they literally just announced. While it has contacted relevant landowners, Thakeham has made no contact with local residents or their elected representatives.

We need Thakeham submit specific proposals through the Local Plan process and it will be published on our website for all to see, and we will use it to carry out all the necessary assessments. So apparently Thakeham now proposes to make a late submission in the Call for Sites. Watch this space.

HEALTH & WELLBEING

Community Lifeline Service

As part of the support to those who are vulnerable or live on their own, the Council offers the Community Life Line service. It offers emergency response at the touch of a button which when pressed, connects to a response centre who then arrange for which ever help is needed. If you are interested and wish to apply, check website at - <https://www.scams.gov.uk/community-lifeline-service> or call 01954 713470, 01954 713370 or email lifelines@scams.gov.uk

Community Warden Scheme

The Council launched seven new Community Warden Schemes (CWS) covering 20 villages, and one of the schemes covers the villages of **Bourn, Caldecote**, Comberton, Hardwick, Toft, Papworth and Wimpole. It is being run for us by Age UK, who have already been running similar schemes in the area. The Council has invested £200,000 to enable the existing 15-scheme service to be expanded, now covering nearly half of the entire district.

The scheme helps those above 60 who prefer to remain living independently in their homes to do so safely, happily and not feel isolated. Wardens can visit to help make or deliver meals, do shopping, collect prescriptions or with paperwork such reading posts, filling in forms being filled in, just have a chat and be a listening ear. Read more about it at <https://www.scams.gov.uk/seven-new-warden-schemes-launch-as-funding-for-2021-2024-announced/> If you live in Bourn or Caldecote and are interested in the service, please call the new Community Warden Paula Rowley on **07812495997**.

Christmas Meal Scheme

South Cambs provided 1,000 traditional turkey dinners to families in need, elderly and vulnerable residents in the district. It was paid for with funds from DEFRA and the Government Winter Support Grant administered by the council. The majority was cooked by C3 Church group, and the remaining by the existing service at Over Day Centre which has been operating throughout the pandemic and has benefitted some residents in Caldecote. Read about it on our website at <https://www.scams.gov.uk/christmas-dinner-on-the-menu-for-almost-1-000-vulnerable-and-older-people/>

Grants for Green Projects

The Council continues to put its money where its mouth is on Being Green to our Core by awarding grants to more communities to implement projects that will help communities move the district toward achieving net zero carbon by 2050. The council received numerous bids for projects focussing on low carbon lifestyles covering areas such as cycling, community buildings and tree planting. Although none of the projects submitted by communities in the Ward got selected, those that were show just what is possible and could be emulated by others. Read more about it at <https://www.scams.gov.uk/more-zcc-grass-roots-green-projects-receive-grants/>

LOCAL ISSUES

Rain and Flooding pre-Christmas

As many know, the Christmas week was an eventful one with lots of rain, and then flooding during the night of Christmas Eve eve. Some houses and businesses in Bourn were flooded, high water levels in Longstowe and Little Gransden were reported, resulting in some roads becoming impassable. Bourn brook rose to 2.48m at one point – or just over 8ft in old money, turning the crossing with Caxton End into a swimming pool and threatening houses nearby. The area around the Doctors Surgery on Alms Hill was also affected.

South Cambs officers were out all that night helping vulnerable residents throughout the district, and were able to provide emergency sandbags.

This unfortunate episode is a reminder to all Parishes to update their Emergency Plans. In addition, residents and businesses are advised to have their own flood/emergency plans in place that will help to prevent or reduce the damage that may be caused by flood waters. Please check out more advice on our website at <https://www.scams.gov.uk/community-development/crime-anti-social-behaviour-and-community-safety/emergency-planning/flooding/>

Bourn Quarter 20/02568/FUL

The application for redeveloping the former TKA Tallent site was going to planning committee on Wednesday 9th December 2020 but was postponed to the meeting on 13th January 2021.

Bourn Airfield New Village S/3440/18/OL

Likewise this application that was to go before the South Cambridgeshire District Council planning committee on Friday 18th December 2020 has been postponed to 19th February 2021. This is because it responded to my campaign to remove the R17 block (proposal for up to 150 houses) in the field at the top of Highfields Road which would have pretty much obliterated the setting of Highfields and obscured the historic views into and out of the village. It was specifically against the Bourn SPD and the Caldecote Village Design Guide, but Countryside had wanted to “take its chances” with the committee. Glad they saw sense in the end.

Cambridge Club - Strawberries & Cream Events at Childerley Orchard 2021

Looks like a new event is being planned for Summer 2021 at Childerley by Proud Events, and events company. Some residents would have received a letter informing about their plans for the

Strawberries and Cream event, which it says is a “true family festival weekend experience, where children can explore and adults can enjoy a celebration of great music, local produce and their favourite podcasters”. The organisers need to obtain a TEN licence for such an event from South Cambs, but to my knowledge that has not happened yet. The company have also been advertising tickets at <https://www.ticketmaster.co.uk/the-cambridge-club-festival-tickets/artist/5345388> but it is unclear whether giving current situation with Covid19, such an event would be possible. We just have to wait and see.

Casework

Irrespective of the current Covid19 lockdown, please do feel free to contact me with comments, questions, problems, reports, suggestions or complaints to do with SCDC services. I will help as best I can.

Please remember - The maxim **Hands – Face – Space** still very much the rule.
LOCKDOWN #3 – STAY HOME

Tumi

Tumi Hawkins
7 January 2021

Email me @:	tumi@tumihawkins.org.uk
Read my blog at:	http://www.TumiHawkins.org.uk
Twitter:	@CouncillorTumi
Facebook	@itsCouncillorTumi
LinkedIn	TumiHawkins
Call me on:	01954 210840

Appendix B

Financial report 07 Jan 2021

N.B. All figures exclude VAT

Item	Budget 2020/21 £	Expenditure YTD £	Budget minus expenditure YTD £	
Grass and Hedge cutting	2167	2174	-7	
Insurance	375	373	2	
Clerk's salary	1278	958	319	
Grants (section 137)	981	0	981	Churchyard maint grant now applied for
Village Hall upgrade	1288	1288	0	
Audit fees	100	53	47	
Village asset maintenance	900	1063	-163	
Subscriptions	368	89	279	
Parish Magazine	760	0	760	Grant now applied for
Footpath lighting	300	237	63	
Miscellaneous and expenses	1500	326	1174	Clerk's expense claim submitted
Income other than precept	-150	-134	-16	
Total	9866	6428		

Bank balances	Current account:	2912
	Deposit account:	14011
S106 money (included in above)	'Open space'	0
	'Community facility'	945

Appendix C

Budget and Precept for 2021/22

N.B. All figures exclude VAT

Item	Budget 2020/21 £	Expenditure YTD 2020/21 £	Budget minus expenditure YTD (negative = overspend) £	Expected spend for whole year 2020/21	Budget for 2021/22	
Grass and Hedge cutting	2167	2174	-7	2174	2193	incr by RPI
Insurance	375	373	2	373	377	incr by RPI
Clerk's salary	1278	958	319	1338	1642	incr by RPI
Grants (section 137)	981	0	981	670	676	incr by RPI
Village Hall upgrade	1288	1288	0	1288	2233	PWB loan interest + £945 agreed grant for vh
Audit fees	100	53	47	53	70	Advised by internal auditor. No external audit fee expected.
Village asset maintenance	900	592	309	600	605	incr by RPI
Subscriptions	368	89	279	414	323	2 x capalc fees paid Assume no more ACRE, others increased by RPI
Parish Magazine	760	0	760	559	564	incr by RPI
Footpath lighting	300	237	63	323	150	LED conversion
Miscellaneous and expenses	1500	326	1174	436	1000	
Income other than precept	-150	-134	-16	-148	-150	Assume unchanged
Total	9866	5956	3910	8080	9683	
Agreed precept					10311	
Surplus precept over budget					628	

RPI for 12 months ending Nov 2020 (latest available) 0.90% (source: ONS)

Precept 2020/21 £10,530
 Council tax base 2020/21 129.60
 Council tax base 2021/22 126.90
 % incr in tax base this year/last year -2.08%

Precept for no change per household (option A) £10,311
 % increase in precept this year/last year for option A -2.08%
 Precept for RPI incr per household (option B) £10,403
 % increase in precept this year/last year for option B -1.20%

Council tax* per band D house 2020/21 £81.25
 Council tax* per Band D house 2021/22 (option A) £81.25
 Council tax* per Band D house 2021/22 (option B) £81.98

* parish contribution

		07/01/2021	03/01/2020
Bank balances	Current	5200	4504
	Savings	14012	13350
S106 money (included in above)	'Open space'	0	0
	'Community facility'	£945	£945