

Kingston Parish Council (KPC)
Minutes of Meeting held at 7.30pm on 9 May 2023

Parish Councillors Present:

Sue Dagleish (SD)
Julie Conder (JC)
Mark Nicholls (MN)
Paul Wheeler (PW)

Also Present:

Katie Vickers(KV), Richard Bentley, Mary-Kate Bentley, Christine Stone

1. Apologies

Miki Ellar (ME), District Councillor Tumi Hawkins

2. Election of Chair and other Posts

Sue Dagleish to continue as Chair. Proposed by Julie Conder and seconded by Mark Nicholls.

Julie Conder to continue as Vice-Chair and Village Webmaster. Proposed by Sue Dagleish and seconded by Paul Wheeler.

Miki Ellar to continue as Councillor, Village Hall Management Committee Representative. Proposed by Mark Nicholls and seconded by Julie Conder.

Mark Nicholls to continue as Councillor, Footpath and Open Spaces. Proposed by Sue Dagleish and seconded by Julie Conder.

Paul Wheeler to continue as Councillor (projects to be allocated). Proposed by Mark Nicholls and seconded by Sue Dagleish.

3. Planning

Mr and Mrs Bentley of Old Mead House gave an overview of their planning application. They then stepped outside while the Parish Council discussed their application and voted. The Parish council's decision on this application was that there was a majority vote to support the application. Mr and Mrs Bentley were advised of this outcome before leaving the meeting. The Parish Council agreed to submit comments onto the Greater Cambridge planning portal.

4. Approval of Previous Minutes of Parish Council Meetings

4.1. Extraordinary meeting on 7 March 2023 – Agreed and Signed

4.2. Parish Council Meeting 14 March 2023 – Agreed and Signed

The clerk who had previously advised the council that she wished to tender her resignation as parish clerk left the meeting at 20.10.

5. Matters Arising

- 5.1 2022/23 Year End Annual Internal Audit Report and AGAR submission – work is continuing to finalise the year end accounts. There will be an additional exceptional parish meeting called to sign the relevant AGAR forms shortly. (SD)
- 5.2 20 MPH Speed Limit – Paul Wheeler confirmed that our application has been submitted to South Cambridgeshire Council. (PW)
- 5.3 Annual Parish Meeting – this will be held on Tuesday 16th May in the village hall. Invitations have been issued and reports received from the relevant parties in advance of this meeting.
- 5.4 Kingston Phone Box – work has been completed to repaint the phone box. A request to provide internal signs for the refurbished box was discussed and it was agreed Paul Wheeler will obtain estimate for the cost of 3 signs. (PW)
- 5.5 Village Defibrillator – discussion was held regarding the creation of a record system for the regular monitoring of the Defibrillator (SD)
- 5.6 Clerks Hours and Working Days – topic postponed till later date

6. Finance

- 6.1 King Charles III Coronation - several successful events were held in the village
- 6.2 East West Rail – SD advised that we are currently awaiting an update from EWR regarding the final route alignment announcement which is expected shortly. (SD)
- 6.3 Village Bus Service – JC advised that reliability of the No 18 village bus service has improved recently. There are still issues of cancellations but there has been a marked improvement in recent weeks. The parish council will continue to monitor the situation. (JC)
- 6.4 Luton Expansion/Aircraft Noise Luton Approach – the parish council will continue to monitor developments with regard to this issue (SD)
- 6.5 Land Registry Project – MN discussed the Parish Online software programme which provides detailed diagrams for the parish council which can be used to identify items such as footpaths and rights of way, un-registered land, listed building status of properties within the parish and several other items. (MN)

7. Finance

- 7.1 Updates to Unity Bank Account – bank access still being obtained for new councillors MN and PW.
- 7.2 Financial Regulations and Standing Orders – it was agreed that work would be undertaken based on the recommendation of the auditor to enhance detail in our current Standing Order and Financial Regulations documents (SD).
- 7.3 Parish Council Insurance – the parish council's BHIB insurance renews on 1 June 2023 at a cost of 448.95. An invoice has been submitted.
- 7.4 Opus Contract Renewal - the current fixed rate deal will terminate at the end of 2023. Research will be carried out in autumn to select new tariff. (SD)
- 7.5 Expenses – our previous parish clerk Mimi Wheeler would like to claim outstanding expense to cover postage costs for the submission of the 2021/22 audit papers to our auditor of 5.55 GBP. (SD)

- 7.6 PAYE/HMRC – Our previous clerk Mimi prepared P45/P60 documents for the 2022/23 annual audit. Access arrangements to the parish council PAYE system are to be transferred on an interim basis to the parish council. (SD/JC)
- 7.7 Information Commissioner (ICO) payment – direct debit payment of 35.00 for the renewal of Data Protection Registration Certificate on 24 April. Log in details to be provided as part of clerk’s document handover. (SD)

8. Correspondence/Meetings/Training

- 8.1 Emails received – it was decided that an item would be entered in the parish magazine advising that details of the minutes of parish meetings can be found on the village website.
- 8.2 Request to have village post box painted –Paul Wheeler will contact local post office to obtain contact details to submit request to relevant authorities (PW).
- 8.3 Parish councils receive several spam emails requesting that councils register on suspicious websites that look identical to the gov.uk website. The parish council is aware of the problem and confirm that there are no issues with any sites used by Kingston Parish Council.
- 8.4 CAPALC training course – details of training courses provided by CAPALC are available on their website. (SD).
- 8.5 Meeting/Training Records – it has been suggested that the topic of creating a page on Dropbox was considered in the future - this topic will be added to next agenda.

9. County Councillor’s Repot - report attached

10. District Councillor’s Report – report received

11. Open Spaces Report

- 11.1 Village Allotments – Invoice received for 30.00 for rent of village allotments from SCDC
- 11.2 Play park safety and Maintenance – safety report received and discussed. This topic will be re-visited at next parish council meeting to discuss work that will be required over coming year (MN/SD)
- 11.3 Stile at Swards – Mark Nicholls reported that he had removed lower wooden step that had rotted and split. It was decided to revisit the topic at the next meeting (MN)

12. Clerk’s report

- 12.1 Bi-monthly report – attached
- 12.2 Invoices:

Company	Service	Date Paid	Amount	Paid By
Opus Energy	Footway lighting	15 Mar 2023	12.86	DD - Agreed
Mimi Wheeler	Back Pay	22 Mar 2023	41.61	B/P – Agreed
SLCC	2023 clerk membership	22 Mar 2023	80.00	B/P – Agreed

Parish Online	Annual Subscription	22 Mar 2023	43.20	B/P – Agreed
Mission Computers	Jubilee Prog. Printing	22 Mar 2023	40.60	B/P – Agreed
CAPALC	Agar Training SD and KV	22 Mar 2023	60.00	B/P – Agreed
Katie Vickers	Clerk Salary Mar 2023	28 Mar 2023	203.52	B/P – Agreed
Buchan Landscapes	Grass cutting Balance	31 Mar 2023	24.74	B/P – Agreed
Katie Vickers	Clerk Expenses	31 Mar 2023	0.95	B/P – Agreed
Katie Vickers	Clerk Expenses	31 Mar 2023	24.00	B/P – Agreed
Opus Energy	Footway Lighting	1 April 2023	14.98 (corrected after meeting as direct debit was for 14.30)	DD – Agreed
Opus Energy	Footway Lighting	1 May 2023	13.56	DD – Agreed
Katie Vickers	April Salary 2023		203.52	B/P – Agreed
SCDC	Rent of Allotments 23/24		30.00	B/P – Agreed
Ivan Cooper	Internal Audit Fee 22/23		75.00	B/P – Agreed
Buchan Landscapes	Grass Cutting April 2023		560.93	B/P – Agreed
Buchan Landscapes	Playground Maintenance		288.00	B/P – Agreed
Buchan Landscapes	Grass Cutting May 2023		560.93	To be agreed at later date
Mimi Wheeler	Expense from 2022		5.55	B/P – Agreed
Play Safety	Annual Play safety check		106.80	B/P – Agreed
BHIB	Local Council Insurance 2023/34		448.95	B/P – Agreed
Information Commission (ICO)	Data Protection Renewal	24 April 2023	35.00	D/D – Agreed
Buchan Landscapes	Grass Cutting June 2023	To be Approved	560.93	To be agreed at later date
Katie Vickers	May Salary 2023	To be Approved	203.52	To be agreed at later date
Katie Vickers	June Salary 2023	To be Approved	203.53	To be Agreed at later date

13. Items for next meeting

Nothing to report

14. A.O.B

Nothing to Report

15. Date of Next Meeting – 11th July 2023

Meeting closed 21.35
Meeting minutes Ref -

Signed.....

Date.....

South Cambridgeshire District Council – Caldecote Ward

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

Councillor's Monthly Report – May 2023

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

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.

Check out articles on my facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/itsCouncillorTumi> and 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.

Reminders

Parish/Cabinet Liaison Meeting

The next Parish Councils / SCDC Cabinet Liaison meeting is scheduled for 5th June 2023. Please put this date in your diary. Select a parish Councillor to attend on your behalf and RSVP if not done already.

Luton Airport Flight Path and Airspace Deployment (AD6) change

Many already affected are noticing the level of noise is increasing, and flight coming across even after midnight! The Post Implementation Review (PIR) period has been extended to end of September so more time to collect data and report real effects on our area.

This is to remind us all that those being affected by the airplane noise should continue to report it to Luton. Send an email to noise@ltn.aero or noise.enquiries@ltn.aero, stating your name and address, the date and time of the flight and effect it had on you. Where possible make a video or audio recording on your phone of the flight event that caused the disturbance as part of your record keeping. Copy the MP in and the RELAS team info@relas.uk for the record. There is still a chance to make a change by reporting the impact AD6 is having on everyday life of everyday people. RELAS group is at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/relas.ad6>.

Luton Airport has submitted a [Development Consent Order \(DCO\) application](#) to the Planning Inspectorate planning permission for the expansion from its current permitted capacity of 18 million passengers to 32 million passengers per year. That DCO has been accepted for consideration. This will mean more planes over this formerly quiet area, with many more being affected by the noise if the consent is given and AD6 gets the final consent.

Fuel Payment for Oil Users

The Alternative Fuel Payments scheme is intended to deliver a one-off payment of £200 to UK households who are not on the mains gas grid and therefore use alternative fuels, such as heating oil, to heat their homes. The scheme not through the Councils but is now open via GOV.uk website at <https://www.gov.uk/get-help-energy-bills/alternative-fuels>. Applications open till end of May 2023, so don't delay.

Housing

Right To Buy (RTB)

Further to my report last month that we delivered 88 new council houses the municipal year 2022/23, looks like we may be able to deliver more in the next year.

Those who live in Council houses have long had the ‘right to buy’ their home at a discount. What has been frustrating for councils who own the houses is that Government takes most of the money from these discounted sales. This makes it really difficult to replace those sold homes with new ones because what is left is pitiful compared to the cost of replacement. The discount is 35% for tenants in residence for 3-5 years for houses and up to 50% for flats. Then goes up by 1% for every extra year the person has been a tenant (or 2% for flats). Good news is that Government has announced that Councils can keep their RTB receipts but only for 2 years. In South Cambs, we sell about 30 properties a year, so this means that we will borrow less for building new houses and it will be easier to replace those homes sold.

Short Term and Holiday Lets

As we know, our area and Cambridge City are popular tourist destinations, the City especially. Many rental properties are being turned into AirBnB and holiday lets in tourist hotspots and Cambridge is no exception. Government is now consulting on a proposal to introduce planning permission for turning an existing home into a short-term let, to ensure local people are supported in areas where large numbers of holiday homes are preventing them from finding affordable housing. Anyone thinking of turning their property into holiday lets should be aware.

Planning

Housing Trajectory and Five Year Housing Land Supply (5YHLS)

This are figures we have to report to Government every year, and the new figures are good. The calculations show that for Greater Cambridge, the two Councils jointly have **6.2 years** of housing land supply for the 2023-2028 five-year period. This is robust and shows we have been able to keep this number above 5 years government minimum threshold consistently.

In terms of house delivery, it is worth remembering that Cambridge local plan 2018 sets 14,000 homes to be delivered between 2011 and 2031. The South Cambs Local Plan 2018 sets its target as 19,500 for the same period. The calculations show that 14,199 are expected to be delivered in Cambridge City and 23,516 in South Cambridgeshire giving a total of 37,715 in Greater Cambridge. The South Cambs figures includes the additional homes granted permission during the period 2014-2018 when the Council did not have a 5YHLS. So overall in Greater Cambridge, we are delivering more than the requirements in both plans.

Resources

Four Day Week Trial

All local authorities across the country are facing huge problems in recruiting and retaining staff, which affects services provided to communities. It is impossible to compete with the private sector especially for planning and environmental officers and so councils have to offer something other than money. Also, the cost of having to use agency staff to fill unfilled posts is currently running at £2mil per year - which is a lot of money for a District Council. For this reason South Cambs District Council has been running a trial for the past months of the Four Day Week. This means that staff have to work very differently, efficiently and more intensely in order to do 100% of the work in 80% of the time to receive 100% of the pay. I have also written about this in my blog at <https://tumiawkins.org.uk/four-day-week-trial-success-at-south-cambridgeshire-district-council/> The report of this trial has now been published and is very encouraging showing that performance has been maintained or improved, and staff who were thinking of leaving are now likely to stay.

What this means for our communities is improvement in services and savings for the functions that your council tax is used for. The recommendation is to extend the trail for a further year.

Councillors are also to be asked to include the refuse collection services in the 4 Day Week trail as of this summer. As I wrote in another blog post at <https://tumihawkins.org.uk/future-of-waste-collections-in-south-cambridgeshire/> we expect this to provide significant improvement in bin collection as the routes are being optimized due to increase number of homes built. But also collecting only Tuesdays to Fridays to avoid disruptions caused by bank holidays. There are many councils already doing this and we will learn from them.

Transport

GCP “Making Connections”

As I reported previously, the 24,000+ consultation responses are being analysed by the GCP. The Sustainable Travel Zone (STZ) being the most controversial aspect.

It is important to remember why it is considered necessary to do something to address congestion problems in Cambridge and South Cambs (Greater Cambridge):

Greater Cambs has 35,000 more residents in 2021 than 2011, there will be 44,000 more jobs by 2031 and 33,500 more houses as in the adopted Local Plans 2018 for both Councils, traffic levels need to decrease by 15% of 2011 levels to be able to run better public transport, 35% of carbon emissions are from transport.

In addition, we should consider what could a better bus transport service look like:

Cheap fares, increased number of routes, increased frequency of buses, faster and more direct services, simple through ticketing, increased bus infrastructure, significant increase in rural services. For the A428 corridor, proposed improvements are increase from 3 to 6 buses/hour for Cambourne to Cambridge, for Cambourne to Addenbrookes, from 1 to 2 buses/hour and Cambourne to Huntingdon from 1 to 3 buses per hour. A new service is proposed to run from Cambourne to Potton and Biggleswade. I wrote about that in my blog at <https://tumihawkins.org.uk/making-connections-proposed-transport-network-improvements/>. This and proposals for other routes is estimated to cost £50million per year. The initial cost to get the service improvements is from GCP funding as in the City Deal agreement, as well as funding from other sources such as S106 and grants. The STZ charging is proposed to keep the new connections and services going from 2027 onwards.

This project has been a long time in discussion and in the making, since the mid noughties 2007 if not earlier. I have also written a blog article <https://tumihawkins.org.uk/proposals-for-bus-service-improvements-supported-by-road-charging/> outlining the history of these proposals.

The GCP is now close to finishing analysing the responses which will be used to revise the proposals to address the concerns people. The final report will outline the results, proposals and next steps, to the GCP Board in June 2023. The final decision will be made by the Cambridgeshire County Council.

Community and Wellbeing

Community Group Funding

Community groups in South Cambridgeshire have been given a funding boost thanks to grants from the District Council. Supporting local people with their mental health, helping families with young children, supporting the elderly, tackling poverty and disability transport are among the community

groups to share more than £148,000 in grants. A total of 11 voluntary sector groups have received funding for the coming financial year as part of the Council's Grants to the Voluntary Sector scheme.

- Home Start Royston & South Cambridgeshire £13,711
- Cambridge Dial-a-Ride £5,000
- Care Network Cambridgeshire £8,000
- Cambridge Council for Voluntary Service £11,400
- Cambridgeshire Older People's Enterprise £2,000 - a voluntary organisation comprising residents aged 50+
- Arts and Minds £4,000 -
- The Voluntary Network £5,000
- REACH Community £5,000
- Disability Huntingdon £6,289
- Royston & District Community Transport £7,000
- Citizens Advice £100,000

The grants are given at the start of each new financial year and the Council makes a pledge to continue that support for the next three years, subject to satisfactory progress reports.

Action for Happiness

The Action for Happiness theme for this month at <https://www.actionforhappiness.org/calendar>. is **Meaningful May**. This month's focus is "Let's find ways to be part of something bigger"

Local Issues

Caldecote:

Linden Homes has lost its appeal to the Planning Inspectorate, asking to vary the condition to build a cycleway linking the estate to St Neots Road, and bridleways. This were conditions set when the original outline application to build 140 houses was approved by the Planning Inspector at appeal. Linden claimed there was not enough space to build the cycleway, but the Inspector did not agree, saying they knew about that condition when they bought the land from Gladmans!

Casework

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

You will find the current and past reports on my blog at <https://tumihawkins.org.uk/caldecote-ward/reports/monthly-reports/2022-23-monthly-reports/>. Feel free to read, share and/or download.

Tumi

Tumi Hawkins
8 May 2023

Email me @:	tumi@tumihawkins.org.uk
Read my blog at:	http://www.TumiHawkins.org.uk
Twitter:	@CouncillorTumi
Facebook	@itsCouncillorTumi
LinkedIn	TumiHawkins
Call me on:	07802 323269

Appendix J

County Councillor Report Cllr Michael Atkins, Hardwick Division Annual Report April 2023

Council composition

The composition of the Council has changed following: the sad death of Cllr Derek Giles; Cllr Doug Dew changing parties; and the resignations of Cllrs Cox Condron and D. Schumann. Updated numbers are as follows:

- Conservatives 26
- Liberal Democrat 22
- Labour 8
- Independents 3

By-elections will be held on May 4th for the two vacant seats.

During this time I have served as a substitute member of the Children and Young People committee, and will take up a new role in April as vice-chair of that committee. I have also represented the council on the Combined Authority's Overview and Scrutiny Committee, and on the Fire Authority.

Council Finances

The high rates of inflation in the last year, and the turmoil of the Liz Truss / Kwasi Kwarteng mini budget, increased the costs of providing council services and therefore widened the budget gap. The Council increased its portion of Council Tax in February, by 4.99% in total—2.99% for general services, and 2% for adult social care.

Adults and Health

National changes in health and care decision-making took place during the year, with the creation of local Integrated Care Systems spanning health and social care. Cambridgeshire & Peterborough created a joint Health & Wellbeing Board to replace the previous separate Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Boards.

This year has exposed the vulnerability of NHS services nationally and also locally. A BBC investigation last summer of dental provision in the UK revealed that no dental practice in Cambridgeshire was accepting new adult patients. Large numbers of patients are having to travel far afield, or pay money they cannot afford for private treatment.

Children and Young People

Funding of vouchers over the school holidays for families eligible for free school meals has continued, as has the Holiday Activity & Food programme for the children of eligible families. The cost of living crisis has seen many Cambridgeshire families reliant on such schemes.

The Council was praised by Ofsted for the work of senior leaders in Children's Services in responding to the challenge of Covid, and for maintaining continuity during structural change,

The council is still seeking residents who would like to make a difference to the life of a child or young person by becoming a foster carer.

In a piece of good news for Cambridgeshire, the council and the Government reached agreement on the 'safety valve' process to resolve the escalating deficit in the cost of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities education. The deficit was expected to grow to over £90m by 2025/26 if left unchecked, and the council was not permitted to divert funding from other sources to fill the gap. Cambridgeshire has been awarded £49m which will be used to create 463 new special school places, with a further £11.3m in capital funding to support new SEND provision on mainstream school sites. Cambridgeshire has historically received less funding per child for education than other areas.

Communities, Social Mobility & Inclusion

COSMIC (Communities, Social Mobility & Inclusion Committee) has continued to oversee the Household Support Fund, which supports people experiencing immediate financial hardship to pay for food, household energy or other essential items. An increasing number of families are struggling financially at the moment. COSMIC agreed to use some of the money from the fund to give a 'payment holiday' to pensioners in arrears with their water bills.

A Warm Hubs programme over the winter was funded by the NHS and administered by Cambridgeshire ACRE with fantastic support from local parishes. I was pleased to visit the Comberton hub alongside other district councillors and the South Cambridgeshire CEO last winter.

A review of the mobile library service resulted in a number of improvements, including more stops, more fuel-efficient routes, and local storage of vehicles. Cambridgeshire's Library@home volunteers were one of three voluntary organisations in the county to be given the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service—the highest award a local voluntary group can receive in the UK.

The Government is introducing a requirement for photographic ID for voters at elections. This starts with the elections in May, and will cost up to £180m over ten years, despite cases of voter identity fraud at polling stations being almost non-existent. The County Council is working with the Districts (who administer elections) to provide support.

Environment

The Council awarded the first spending from its Just Transition fund, including £2m for a business case for the first phase of the Council's plan for Cambridgeshire to reach Net Zero carbon by 2045. £2m was also awarded for flood work and nature restoration.

The County Council is working with district councils on energy retrofits in homes with poor energy efficiency.

The waste disposal contract with Thalia (formerly Amey) at Waterbeach has taken considerable amounts of council time. In addition to the odour emission works required by the Environment Agency, the new year saw new enforcement by the Environment Agency of rules on 'persistent organic pollutants in waste upholstered domestic seating'. This led to a week of the council being unable to accept unwanted sofas, futons, gaming chairs, upholstered dining seats, and other similar items. These must now be incinerated not landfilled. In addition to this, discussions are also ongoing with Defra regarding proposals to introduce weekly food waste collections.

The first households in Swaffham Prior are now receiving renewable energy from the new energy centre. Interest in this project has been considerable. Other energy projects, including the new heat system at Comberton Village College, are continuing to progress. In conjunction with iChoose the council ran another round of Solar Together, the group buying scheme for homeowners wanting to invest in solar panels and battery storage.

The Examination into the planning application by Sunnica for the large solar farm between Burwell and Red Lodge began in autumn 2022.

Anglian Water and Cambridge Water announced in the autumn their preferred location for a new reservoir in the Fens, north of Chatteris, to come onstream in the late 2030s. A planning application will come in due course and progress through a number of stages. It will be a decision for the Secretary of State through the Planning Inspectorate, as with other major infrastructure schemes.

The council has published an interim Tree Strategy, which it will revise once it has baseline information about what trees the council has, where they are, and how the council can expand and improve its tree assets.

We agreed a motion to the Full Council calling for managed divestment by the council's Pension Fund from fossil fuels.

The county council plans to fit street lighting with energy-efficient LEDs. The council spends £3.3m a year on energy for street lights, and this sum will pay back in under six years.

Transport and Highways

The condition of Cambridgeshire's roads and pavements remains a serious challenge. This situation has been building for many years in which the council's approach was one of 'managed decline'. However, recent extreme weather has speeded up that decline very significantly. The peaty soil under the road surface has shrunk in hot dry weather, and expanded in wet weather, causing the surface to crater and split. Adding more tarmac to level the surface simply increases the weight and makes matters worse. The severity and extent of the problem is far beyond the maintenance budget of the council, so simply 'freeing up some money' is not an option. The council has been actively engaging with the Department for Transport to seek their support and funding.

The freezing spell over winter caused many road and pavement surface defects, and failure of pothole repairs. Because of the widespread extent, many were treated with temporary repairs which suffered in the further temperature fluctuations. Residents should continue to log potholes on the reportit website, and our local highways team are working hard to assess these and prioritise for treatment. The council now has three 'dragon patchers' (all-in-one pothole machines) working round the clock and further reviews will hopefully improve the quality of repairs carried out by our contractors and the level of service provided.

The council used a data interpretation and modelling tool to identify a 'Safe and Dry' programme of 115 locations where work was needed to improve flood resilience, and work began on the first fifty of these locations. The council is also undertaking a two-year programme to clean and plot all gullies and surface drainage features to improve highways drainage management into the future.

The new funding pot for 20mph schemes has attracted a large amount of interest and I am expecting bids to be submitted from several of our parishes.

In September 2022 Stagecoach gave six weeks' notice of its intention to withdraw from a large number of bus routes. The Combined Authority pulled together a tender process at very short notice, and was able to find new providers for most of those routes, though there have been

changes in frequency and extent of several of them. Additional funding was diverted to support these routes, and the Mayor has decided to levy a precept which will be added to the council tax to ensure the stability of these services for a further year.

Major Infrastructure (inc. GCP)

STZ: In autumn the Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP) consulted on its proposals for improved bus provision and active travel in the Cambridge area, which it proposed to fund through a charge for driving in a 'Sustainable Travel Zone' between 7:00AM and 7:00PM on weekdays. The results of the consultation will be published later this year. I am particularly keen to see the results and understand how our widely-held desire for better bus services can be best brought about.

C2C: The Council has approved the submission of a Transport and Works Act order to the Secretary of State for this scheme. This followed extensive debate in the chamber, including contributions from members of the public and parish councils. I'm very grateful to everyone who made the trip to Alconbury to make their voices heard. I supported an amendment to delay approval of the scheme to enable a comparison between it and the CPPF on-road route, but sadly this was not supported by a majority of councillors. I subsequently supported the progression of the scheme to this next stage. My speeches explaining my decisions are available on my facebook page (below), and the debate as a whole can be watched on youtube at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iwbAi8Q9e5Q> from around the 32m mark. We expect that the secretary of state will hold a public inquiry into the scheme before making their decision. If you wish to show your support for the on-road option, you can get in touch with Cambridge Past Present and Future (CPPF) who are spearheading this work via <https://www.cambridgeppf.org/appeal/save-the-coton-green-corridor>

Progress continues to be made on the Greenways cycle schemes, including an improved surface on the M11 bridge part of the Comberton scheme. I am expecting accelerated delivery of these over the next two years, subject to resolving remaining concerns e.g. in Grantchester.

The whole year has passed without any further substantive details about the East-West Rail scheme, although the Westminster government has recommitted to the delivery of this project. An announcement on the final route is expected in May.

Contact Details

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

Clr Michael I. Atkins
matkinslibdem@gmail.com
<https://www.facebook.com/cllrnichaelatkins>
07968 264637

Appendix C

Bi-Monthly Report: 9 May 2023

N.B. All figures exclude VAT

Item	Budget 2023/24 £	Expenditure YTD £	Budget minus expenditure YTD £	
Grass and Hedge cutting - Expense	2876	0	2876	
Grass and Hedge cutting - Income	-306	0	-306	CCC Contribution to verge cutting + £30 from Fasnachloich
Insurance	463	0	463	
Clerk's salary	2419	0	2419	
Grants	941	0	941	
Village Hall upgrade	1288	644	644	
Audit fees	72	0	72	
Village asset maintenance	600	0	600	
Subscriptions	456	35	421	
Parish Magazine	830	0	830	
Footpath lighting	194	14	180	
Miscellaneous and expenses	1000	0	1000	
Income other than precept	-248	0	-248	Excludes Fasnachloich as included in grasscutting
Total	10585	692		Precept is £10,892

Bank balances	Current account:	8672
	Deposit account:	15440
S106 money (included in above)	'Open space'	0
	'Community facility'	0