

**Kingston Parish Council (KPC)**  
**Minutes of Meeting held at 7.30pm on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2023**

Sue Dalglish (SD)  
Julie Conder (JCo)  
Miki Ellar (ME)  
Mark Nicholls (MN)  
Paul Wheeler (PW)  
Peter Stokes (PS)  
Rachel Marsh

Meeting Commenced at 7.30pm.

**1. Apologies**

Tumi Hawkins and Michael Atkins

**2. Approval of minutes from Previous Meeting:-**

- 2.1 Minutes from 9<sup>th</sup> May 2023
- 2.2 Minutes from 16<sup>th</sup> May 2023 – Annual Parish Meeting
- 2.3 Minutes from 20<sup>th</sup> June 2023
- 2.4 Minutes from 4<sup>th</sup> July 2023

- 3. County Councillor's Report – In Tumi's absence Sue Dalglish covered the main point detailed in Tumi Hawkin's report dated 3 July 2023
- 4. District Councillor's Report – nothing to report

**Matters Ongoing**

- 5. East West Rail - JCo and ME provided details of the EWR information meetings that they attended following the recent preferred route announcement. The topic of additional housing at Cambourne was discussed and it was agreed that this topic would be monitored in view of the additional housing that has also been highlighted recently by central government. PW mentioned that a local land agent has been approached again by EWR for access therefore we will continue to monitor developments relating to the EWR project over coming months. A member of the parish council will continue to attend meetings organised by the Cambridge Approaches group to ensure we are up to date with developments as the project moves forward.
- 6. Kingston Phone Box and Post Box – PW confirmed that the post office authorities had now visited Kingston to repaint the post box. He also provided details of signs which would be placed within the refurbished telephone box to say "Kingston Telephone Library". SD will write to Katherine Stalham to discuss the signs and check that she and her group of volunteers, who were responsible for carrying out the work on the phone box, are happy with the design of the signs. If agreed, PW will then arrange for the signs to be prepared. PW will also check the situation with lighting within the phone box as PS mentioned that there should be a functioning light within the box – it was thought perhaps a new lightbulb might need to be sourced.

7. No 18 Bus Service - JCo provided an update on the operation of the village bus service that has improved in reliability recently. JCo and PW attended a county council meeting which discussed transport provision and the Cambridge sustainable travel zone (Congestion charge). This topic is still under discussion and it appears as if several different ways of operating and financing the scheme are being considered and a decision is expected by the year end. Further details will be provided to the council when more information is available. The Topic of cycle greenways was also discussed – unfortunately there do not appear to be any plans to join Kingston to the cycle ways in Comberton in the near future.
8. Land Registry Project – further work will be carried out in this area in coming months. The Parish online system, amongst other things, allows the council to view the location of footpaths and other land boundaries within the village area which has proved helpful in addressing recent parish planning requests. PW provided details of a map Toft had prepared which showed walking routes around their village. He will look into creating a map for Kingston that can be placed on the village notice board in the bus shelter and also at various points close to the start of footpaths with a view to encouraging people to walk on designated paths.
9. Financial Regulations and Standing Orders - further work will be carried out in this area in coming months (SD & JCo).

### **Matters Arising**

10. Finance - Bank Account Access/Signatories - SD confirmed that all councillors now have access to the parish council bank account and can authorise payments. JCo, SD and PS will be working on the parish council 2022/23 VAT submission in coming months.
11. Clerk Recruitment – we are continuing to look to recruit a new parish clerk. In the meantime Peter Stokes has kindly agreed to act as our interim parish clerk.
12. Invoices Paid and for Approval - see page 3
13. Comberton Care Home Meeting - ME discussed the meeting she attended in Comberton which covered the proposed housing development for over 65s in Comberton. There is a level of concern amongst residents that the local doctor's surgery might not be able to cope with a large influx of new patients as it appears that they are already stretched by the other new housing development in Comberton opposite Comberton Village college.
14. Correspondence/Meetings/Training – A land registry letter received recently was discussed and it was noted that as the village hall is not an incorporated body the Parish Council no longer has responsibility as a custodian trustee. It was agreed to pass a copy of this letter to Paul Wright and Chris Reid of the village hall committee for their attention (SD).
15. Planning Application request to move footpath at Kingston Pastures Farm, Old Wimpole Road – an application to move the foot path was discussed and it was felt that there were no grounds for objection to the changes therefore it was decided that the council did not need to contact Cambridgeshire County Council to comment. The parish council will monitor for future planning applications in respect of possible housing development at the site and will hold a planning meeting as is standard practice when we are notified of a planning application for housing development.
16. Playpark Safety Report – SD presented the annual play park safety report. A few items of equipment were identified for remedial work. It was decided that SD would contact Playdale in Cumbria who supplied the equipment initially to ask for guidance on repairs.
17. Street Lighting - nothing to report

18. Open Spaces Report – MN reported that the county council has been contacted regarding re-painting the road markings at the junction beside the village hall. This had been requested previously however following a recent near miss traffic incident which was reported to us by a resident, we have again requested that this be given priority attention. The council has also been notified about fallen street signs in the village and we are awaiting a reply.

The topic of grass cutting in the village was discussed. It was decided that MN and SD would meet to discuss and update the various maps and instruction sheet which describe the grass cutting schedule for the village. This will then be presented to the parish council and, if agreed, will be discussed with Buchans to help address the issue of verge cutting in the village which has resulted in some comments from residents recently.

A village work day/litter pick was discussed and is planned for September or October (NM/SD).

The topic of pot holes was also discussed - it was decided that the parish council would contact the county council to ask if they could provide an update on when work might be carried out in the village.

19. Cranes Lane Sub-Station Tree concern – PW advised that UK Power networks had agreed that the area around the electrical sub-station in Cranes Lane needed attention and had notified their contractor “Freedom” who will be asked to carry out the work. We are expecting to hear from them shortly. It was advised that a tree close to the sub-station had been looked at and that it was not deemed to be presenting a concern to UK Power however the parish council wishes to contact highways department to ask them to look at the tree as it has been brought to our attention that it might be dead/dying and need attention.
20. Bi-monthly Report – JCo discussed the current parish council spending figures.
21. A.O.B. – nothing to report
22. Date of next meeting – 12<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Invoices paid and for approval

Company	Service	Date Paid	Amount	Paid By	Decision
Opus Energy	Street Lighting	15 June 2023	12.48	D/D	Agreed
Katie Vickers	Final Salary Payment	19 June 2023	669.65	B/P	Agreed
Buchans Landscapes	May 2023 Grass Cutting	19 June 2023	560.93	B/P	Agreed
CAPALC	Annual Membership	19 June 2023	202.54	B/P	Agreed
HMRC	HMRC Income Tax Back Payment	28 June 2023	8.32	B/P	Agreed
P J Stokes	Clerk Salary	30 June 2023	18.66	B/P	Agreed
HMRC	Clerk Income Tax Payment P J Stokes	30 June 2023	4.60	B/P	Agreed
Public Work Loan	DD from 2 May 2023 (Omitted from Last Agenda)	2 May 2023	643.79	D/D	Agreed

Meeting closed 9.20 pm  
Meeting minutes ref: 11072203 KPC

Signed .....

Date .....

# South Cambridgeshire District Council – Caldecote Ward

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

## Councillor's Monthly Report – July 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.

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### 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

#### Luton Airport Flight Path and Airspace Deployment (AD6) change

The Post Implementation Review (PIR) period now finishes end of September 2023. This gives opportunity for spring/summer time effects to be recorded and reported to Luton at using [noise@ltn.aero](mailto:noise@ltn.aero) or [noise.enquiries@ltn.aero](mailto:noise.enquiries@ltn.aero).

RELAS is holding a public meeting on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> July 8.00PM at Eco Hub, Stocks Lane, Gamlingay SG19 3JR. Opportunity to hear the latest updates and what to do to continue to make your voices heard. The noise from the air braking above our villages is what is causing the serious problems to the wellbeing of residents. It shows that the Airspace Deployment design is faulty, and needs to go back to the drawing board.

### Planning Updates

#### ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management Standard

Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Development Management Service have successfully received accreditation for the ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management Standard. The external ISO 9001 auditor spent several days with the team, reviewing everything from processes, performance, internal audits to leadership and we have successfully achieved the standard without any need for additional work. As far as we know, we are the only Planning Service to have achieved this accreditation. The team worked hard to get to this stage and deserve the end result. This shows that the transformation project we've been working on is reaping good results.

#### Environment Agency (EA) Objections on grounds of water supply

Media reports as usual on anything planning is misrepresenting the situation. As is the MP. EA report on their concerns over water supply in Greater Cambridge formed part of their recent representation at the recent Brookgate public inquiry.

What the EA has done is ask Cambridge Water, (CW) the supplier of water for Greater Cambridge, for further information on the cumulative impact of the proposed developments (Bourn Airfield, Darwing Green Ph2 & 3) on water supply as part of the environmental assessment of proposals. CW as the supplier have abstraction licences and limits, and it's whether CW is able to carry on supplying based on those limits or find other sources. CW just finished consultation on their Water Resources Management Plan just last month. EA was not satisfied with it, even though it proposed bringing in supplies from Grafham Water (short to medium term) and building the Fen Reservoir

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(long term) to meet the growth needs. The sites in all these cases are in the current adopted local plan of 2018, which we have to deliver to avoid being punished by Government.

So, Cambridge Water is now doing modelling work as EA has asked. The outcome of that will enable the review of the cumulative effects of new development and its impact upon the water environment, and then all can consider and agree the approach to mitigation. Meanwhile, our officers are regularly meeting representatives from DEFRA, Cambridge Water and the EA in an effort to seek resolution of the EA's concern relating to further development in our district.

## **Transport**

### **East West Rail Route Alignment Announcement**

EWR has held a series of update meetings with the Local Representatives Groups (LRG) last month. I attended two and missed one. These meetings were to explain the route selected and answer questions from the communities affected by it.

Further- the Council Leader, Director of Planning and I met with Beth West and Will Gallagher to understand better the reasonings for the choice of route alignment. In summary The reason for selecting the southerly route is entirely to do with access to the Cambridge Biomedical Campus site. A station at Tempsford should allow those at St Neots and Sandy to remain viable. The Outline Line Business Case will be submitted next summer and the DCO process is likely to be 18 months. They are working to a very compressed timeline. Construction is expected to start in 2027 and trains will run from early 2030s. The whole rail line will open at the same time to give reliability and encourage its use. There will be 4 trains an hour from the start with 2 freight trains each way per day. Any additional freight traffic will require a £1bn upgrade of the wider network, which is not in the budget yet. The embankments and viaduct height will reduce and more information on those will be available hopefully in September. And yes, they are working on taking the line under the A428 and between Comberton & Toft. However they have to go over the Kings Cross line. The 'red line' boundaries are not defined yet, but should be ready in the Autumn. They are looking at including a cycle way and connectivity infrastructure alongside the rail line, so it's a "transport corridor". They corrected the misrepresentation going round that 53000 homes are planned for Cambourne. No, that number is the population that is expected to use the station, from all over the area. There is an exhibition at Cambourne on 11th July in the Belfry.

## **Local Government**

### **Resources**

#### **Four Day Week Trial**

As I previously reported, the 3-month four-day week initial trial was successful and has been extended for 12 more months. My blog article on it is at <https://tumihawkins.org.uk/four-day-week-trial-success-at-south-cambridgeshire-district-council/>. It is to be extended to the Greater Cambridge Waste Service, a shared service with Cambridge City Council as I wrote in my blog at <https://tumihawkins.org.uk/future-of-waste-collections-in-south-cambridgeshire/>. City have now agreed to it.

A mystery shopper exercise was carried out on the Contact Centre by an independent organization Insight 6. It ran for 4 weeks analysing 400 contacts, to enable us understand the customer experience that the Council delivers, benchmark against similar authorities in Hertfordshire, and recommend any necessary improvements. The contact was across the council – Benefits, Environmental Services, Housing, Planning, Revenues and General Enquiries. The benchmark

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results showed an overall contact average of 81% compared to benchmark average of 68%. You can see full [Benchmark report here](#).

However in the meantime, Conservative opposition through their MP have been attacking the trial and lobbied the Under Secretary of State DLUCH Lee Rowley, who without contacting South Cambs Administration, wrote to SCDC to instruct the trial be stopped. He relied entirely on misinformation from Mr Browne and lies from the Conservative funded pressure group [Taxpayers Alliance](#), whose founder was Chief Exec of the Vote Leave campaign. The Leader has written back to Mr Rowley asking for a meeting to give him the true facts. Even Rt Hon [Michael Gove has stepped in to make hostile pronouncements](#) without the evidence. Even some of their own Conservatives are against their pronouncements as happened at the annual LGA conference this week. Considering Government decisions are supposed to be evidence based, it shows this attack is politically minded. Till Ministers agree to meet and hear the truth, the trial continues.

## Community and Wellbeing

### Action for Happiness

The Action for Happiness theme for July at <https://www.actionforhappiness.org/calendar> is **Jump Back Up July**. This month's focus is "*Let's take action to be happier and kinder together*"

## Local Issues

### Caldecote:

#### Issues at Balfour Beatty (BB) Development on Grafton End:

BB resited the play trail from the location it was granted planning permission for, therefore failing to comply with the planning permission. I have taken this up and confirm that the Compliance Team visited the site to assess and reached conclusion that there is sufficient planning harm caused, due to a loss of privacy to residents. BB claim they want to keep it there and regularise through a new planning application. But Compliance Team has written to them giving 28 days to remove the trail anyway. If they don't comply, Compliance will issue a [Breach of Condition notice](#). This is the standard compliance process.

The case of the fire at MUGA was also reported and I am liaising with the Communities Team on how to provide more information on reporting incidents like that and how to support local parish councils in dealing with such in future.

## 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  
3 July 2023

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# Kingston Parish Council

## Financial report 30 June 2023

*N.B. All figures exclude VAT*

Item	Budget 2023/24 £	Expenditure YTD £	Budget minus expenditure YTD £	Additional Information
Grass and Hedge cutting - Expenditure	2,876	935	1,941	2 of 6 payments made
Grass and Hedge cutting - Income	(306)	0	(306)	To come: £276 contribution from CCC; £30 receipt from Fasnacloich Estates
Insurance	463	449	14	No further payments expected; (increase was less than budgeted)
Clerk's salary	2,419	905	1,514	Includes KV to 8 Aug, and 1 month PS
Grants (section 137)	941		941	Churchyard maintenance
Village Hall upgrade	1,288	644	644	PWLB 1 of 2 tranches paid
Audit fees	72	75	(3)	No further payments expected; (increase was slightly more than budgeted)
Village asset maintenance	600	329	271	Paid for playground: annual inspection; extra bark
Subscriptions	456	238	218	Paid for ICO, CAPALC
Parish Magazine	830		830	
Footpath lighting	194	38	156	3 months paid
Miscellaneous and expenses	1,000	53	947	Clerk exps; allotments rent paid to SCDC; bank charges
Income other than precept	(248)	(86)	(162)	Deposit account interest recd
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,585</b>	<b>3,580</b>	<b>7,005</b>	

<b>Bank balances</b>	Current account:	5,444	<i>see below</i>
	Deposit account:	15,526	
<b>At 30 June 2023</b>		<b>20,970</b>	

### Reconciliation of bank balances

Balances brought forward	Current account:	3,919	
	Deposit account:	14,711	
		<b>18,630</b>	
Net expenditure as above		(3,580)	
Other items:	Precept income	5,446	1 tranche received
	VAT refund received	729	For financial year 2021-22
	VAT incurred on net expenditure 2023-24	(255)	To be recovered
<b>At 30 June 2023</b>		<b>20,970</b>	<i>As above</i>