

Draft until signed
Minutes of Dry Drayton Parish Council (DDPC) Meeting
Tuesday 6th October 2020 at 7.30pm, via virtual Zoom meeting online

Present: S Lander (SL) (Chair), J Dolan (JD) (Vice-Chair), E Pyle (EP) (Councillor), T Houlihane (TSH) (Councillor), K Cullen (KC) (Councillor), S Aldersley (SA) (Councillor – co-opted at Item 5)

Attending: S Etherington-Meech (SEM) (Clerk/RFO), Cllr L Harford (LH) (County Councillor), Cllr D Delacey (DDL) (District Councillor), Cllr T Bygott (TB) (District Councillor), 15 members of the public

1. To Accept Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr F Peck due to work commitments

2. To Accept Parish Councillors Declarations of Interest for Matters on the Agenda

No declarations of interest were declared by councillors.

3. To Agree to hold a Public Forum

The public advised that they were mainly in attendance to observe Item 9 of the agenda.

4. To Approve the Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 8th September 2020

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting be approved and signed by the chairman as a true record.

5. To consider an application for co-option – Stephen Aldersley

An application was received from SA for the councillor vacancy, it was RESOLVED to co-opt SA as a member of the parish council. SL proposed, EP seconded, unanimous decision from DDPC. SA signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office in front of the clerk.

6. Matters Arising from the Minutes, Report of any actions and Resolutions from last meeting – See Appendix 1

6.1 - 2021/22 LHI Application for Oak Crescent (ongoing)

SL advised that the deadline for applications was the 27th September 2020 so DDPC must just await a response to their application – ongoing item.

6.2 - 2020/21 LHI and Legacy Fund (Pam Hobson) update on progress of works

An email was received from Pam Hobson on 18th September 2020 advising that in relation to the Legacy Fund, individual programmes will be sent out w/c 5th October 2020 & in regards to the LHI application, SL has received an email from Donald O'Shea at CCC advising that works are due to commence on 30th October 2020.

6.3 - Park Lane Verges/Cycle path upgrade/line painting/drainage (ongoing)

Ongoing issues.

6.4 - Quotation from Brookfield/exact location & frequency and grass cutting reimbursement query for CC (SL)/"listed to cut" info (SEM) (ongoing)

Due to Covid-19 this item is still ongoing.

6.5 - Landowner contact re: allotment fencing

JD advised that this item is still ongoing, and that Autumn is ideal to commence this project.

6.7 - Drift clearance – progress for working party

JD advised that he has a large group of volunteers and will make contact them for works to start as soon as possible.

6.8 - Tidy up of area in front of fence at Pettitts Lane

SL advised that he would sort this issue and that half term maybe a good time for the works.

6.9 - Old Rectory Windows concerns (ongoing)

Ongoing item.

6.10 - Completion of direct debit mandate for ICO (Data Protection Registration)

SL & JD to complete direct debit mandate tomorrow.

6.11 - Recruitment of volunteers for village speed watch team (Ongoing)

SL advised that this is an ongoing concern for the speed watch team, and he will liaise with the speed watch team coordinator.

6.12 - Planning comment submission – Scotland Farm, Irwin centre, 50 & 52 High St

RESOLVED – clerk has submitted comments for all applications.

6.13 - Draft letter re: hedging/signage 'Pathfinder' Long Distance Walk

Ongoing item.

6.14 - Village Hall Management Committee Meeting Attendance Update

KC advised that he attended the meeting and that all seems to be in hand and that a group of people have put in a bid to take over the committee. SA queried if the committee have a plan that can be seen, SL advised not quite yet as some more planning is required. KC advised that the committees future plan is to put Wi-Fi and other facilities into the hall to ensure it is a modern useable building. Les Waters (LW) provided a link to the minutes in the chat function of the meeting.

6.15 - Arrangement of new councillor training (ongoing)

This an ongoing item.

6.16 - SCDC - Road verge management – more info received?

SEM advised that she requested more information and is awaiting a response.

6.17 - Progress on LED upgrade to streetlights

Ongoing issue, councillors to advise clerk when works are completed.

7. To Accept a Report from County and District Councillors

LH for report see Appendix 3

Firstly, LH wanted to highlight a correction in her verbal update from the last parish council meeting on Tuesday 8th September, the morning after the meeting she received an email from the landowner in relation to the cycle path link to the NMU which was discussed under Item 7 & 9. b, further to the email she wanted to bring one point to the attention of DDPC as not completely accurate. LH advised of the following dialogue *“LH referred to ongoing negotiations between agents and the landowner advised they have not instructed an agent on this matter, LH since checked with the council agents that in initial stages of negotiations contact was made by the County Council agent with an agent that acts for the landowner, however, more recently communication has been direct with the landowner”*. LH highlighted the mistake on her part and said that she hoped that the position was now clear to DDPC and that DDPC would confirm that LH is honest and would not mislead intentionally. LH did provide an update to the matter and confirmed that she had checked today with County Council officers and the councils agent is continuing efforts to keep the dialogue open on the matter of land acquisition, LH advised that she will continue to observe this matter very carefully and does not believe the CCC is being intransigent and will continue to try to reach an agreement. SL thanked LH for her correction and update with this matter.

DDL for report see Appendix 4

DDL provided two further updates to his report, firstly, in relation to the Local Plan and Call for Sites to reassure that the response has been overwhelming with many more sites being submitted than is required, therefore lots of sites will be thrown out before any consultation with most not even coming to fruition. Secondly, DDL advised with increases of Covid-19 cases in the district, SCDC have decided to provide money if necessary, to parish councils to enable them to bring volunteer groups back or keep them going.

TB for report see Appendix 5

TB also reassured that the Call for Sites is at a preliminary stage reiterating that there are far more sites than are actually required and he advised to refer to his report for figures. TB affirmed that he believes that it has been irresponsible for administration to publish such a long list a year before consultation and believes that it is good practice to firstly go through and remove anything out of order so not to disturb or worry. DDL highlighted transparency and that people have been calling for the list to be revealed since the Call for Sites was announced, TB stated that he did understand about transparency but the main issue is that a year seems excessive and that there should have been a possibility of going into a consultation period sooner than a year. SL stated that he feels some sites should never have got to a public awareness stage.

TB also highlighted the reform of the planning system on 29th October and urged councillors to review the document and respond accordingly.

8. To Discuss Planning Matters

Remote decisions on planning applications were made via email and voting records retained.

a. Applications received for consideration

- i. 20/03023/FUL – Irwin Centre, Scotland Rd CB23 8AU- Extension to provide extended and additional office units and the provision of an onsite cafe and new car parking area on former agricultural land – extension for comments 9th October**

– amended application with a reduction in the proposed number of car parking spaces.

SL advised that this is the third time that DDPC have been asked to comment on this application and that the only amendment this time is the reduced car parking spaces. SL stated that if the development is for the same size but with less parking spaces it must be questioned how more appealing this application is. SL proposed resubmission of previous comments, all councillors agreed, unanimous decision RESOLVED. **Action** – Clerk to resubmit comments.

b. Decisions received from South Cambs District Council

i. 20/03013/FUL – Scotland Farm, Scotland Road, CB23 8AU - Erection of an agricultural workers dwelling for seasonal farm workers – GRANTED

SL advised that he raised concerns to LH in relation to this application as the decision to grant the application was only made by planning a day after DDPC submitted comments and that our comments that were referred to in the officers report had been tied to the wrong application. Therefore, this resulted in a significant concern raised by DDPC not even being considered or mentioned in the officer's report. The concern being that Dry Drayton should not be housing temporary workers that are not directly required by the applicant for business interests within the Parish and for planning to consider restrictions if approved for periods of occupancy and for such a need to be demonstrated. LH advised that as DDPC can only challenge the process the only approach in these circumstances is a judicial review which is a costly exercise that could potentially have the same outcome, LH advised she will attempt to get some free advice for DDPC.

9. Matters for discussion/correspondence received

a. To discuss responses received for the Pegasus consultation

SL advised that he had been copied into a number of responses to this consultation and in summary the majority were not in support of the proposal, the general consensus being that the piece of land is in green belt and needs special exception to receive any construction work to it and that nothing that has been proposed appears as though it would support the exceptions required. Some other residents have highlighted that developers are seeking to develop land and give some village amenity, however, there is already an ancient footpath across the piece of land that can be enjoyed and walked along and SL highlighted also that there are some village greens in the parish already such as near the church. SA asked if the village is actually seeking public space and SL said that he believes that there is a need for a children's play area but not a village green.

SL confirmed that the next phase would be to await a response from Pegasus to the consultation and comments received and he asked DDPC if they would like him to chase for next steps or wait to see how Pegasus assess the situation. JD stated that he believed that DDPC should have a proactive approach and engage conversations early before any formal applications are made, SL agreed and advised that commercially the land has limited value without planning permission.

A housing needs survey was brought into discussion and LW added a PDF link on the chat function of the meeting to one that was carried out in 2009, SL highlighted that nimbyism must be considered otherwise no developments would ever take place and it is inevitable they will. LH advised that when the proposal was first considered she contacted the housing officer at SCDC to provide an up to date housing needs assessment based on the current housing register and on 18th August 2020 there were eight people on the register, however, the figure is to be treated with caution as it does not advise if they are in need or simply want to move. LH also advised that another thing that must be challenged with Pegasus is for them to prove that they have carried out sequential testing, whereby, they look at any other

possible site in the village and discount it in favour of the one they intend to build, LH has already challenged this and not been given comfort that the test has been carried out.

SL raised that the meeting with Pegasus must only be a fact-finding task to then come back to the next full parish council meeting for discussion and agreement. **Action** – SL to arrange a meeting with Pegasus and councillors and bring back to council for November meeting.

b. **To discuss the new Local Plan and overview of the call for sites in relation to the parish**

TSH put together a map summary of sites submitted that affect Dry Drayton in the Call for Sites and shared the map on screen for all participants of the meeting. TSH explained that employment sites were shaded orange on the map and that there are several proposals along the A14, a couple of smallish office sites along A428 in shrubland, a petrol station with some retail units next to the proposed park and ride site at Scotland Farm, some big expansion of Scotland Farm with some outdoor leisure, however, TSH highlighted that these are only proposals and that none may necessarily go ahead.

In regard to residential sites TSH explained that the proposals put forward were enough for a third of the total demand for the Local Plan and that plenty of other sites within the district have been submitted and that potentially none in Dry Drayton may go through. SL advised that this is just the start of the process and DDPC must be prepared and stay attentive to and will have to do more work amongst the parish to get their views as and when required to gauge what may be acceptable to ensure sites do not go ahead especially the enormous developments.

c. **To discuss the illegal traveller encampment on the old A14 slip road**

SL advised that on Friday 25th September 2020, six to seven caravans appeared on the site of the old A14 slip road (westbound). SL highlighted how this was disappointing as there was correspondence with highways back in November 2018 raising this as a potential issue, naively they replied advising they would put a gate with a lock on at the site. SL advised that this matter was also raised two to three DDPC meetings prior to this one and subsequently the area had been fenced, gated and re-tarmacked. Moves were made on the evening of 25th September 2020 to start the due process by SL and LH, however as the land is owned by Highways, CCC and DDPC have no influence and until the land is handed over from highways to the local authority this matter cannot be discussed with CCC. SL reassured DDPC and the public that Neighbourhood Watch have been in touch with the local police and they will be keeping an eye on the village to keep it safe. SL advised that everything that can be done has been carried out and the eviction process has started, however, it will be a bit longer before the travellers are moved on. SL thanked LH for her assistance in this matter.

LH advised that although it is highways responsibility to move the travellers on, a county enforcement officer has been to visit the site and is aware of the group of travellers and that they have been moved on from a variety of sites in the local area. LH highlighted that she understands that it is unsettling for residents and to reassure them that if for any reason they believe there is evidence of risk it will be a police matter, she promised that things are underway and being dealt with properly and will come to a conclusion.

d. **To discuss drainage issues at the bottom of Long Lane and if a quotation for chippings has been obtained**

KC will measure the areas of the path that need attention so that an order for the chippings can be agreed at next meeting.

e. **To discuss tidying up of the village footpaths**

SL advised that this was due to be carried out at the beginning of the summer and we were awaiting someone at CCC to come back to us to advise of responsibility, however, the village is now in need of a tidy up. **Action** – JD to organise a working party to complete this task.

f. **To discuss assistance/schemes to tackle loneliness in the parish further to the Covid-19 pandemic**

Cllr F Peck had requested this item for the agenda; however, she was unable to attend.

SL stated that he was unsure what Cllr F Peck had envisioned but the village hall is unlikely to be open in the foreseeable future and he can only see that phone contact by the support group is viable. JD proposed contacting the coffee van that visits the village on a Wednesday and Friday to enquire as to them having a weekly slot at the village hall car park to bring people together, although it would be weather dependant. All councillors agreed that this was a good idea and **Action** JD to judge how many residents would be interested in this scheme. Use of the pub marquee was another suggestion and SL suggested that other associations should be approached for their views and JD offered to contact the village hall committee.

- g. **For info – Temporary Road Traffic order for Madingley Road with Park Street as an alternative route – scheduled for between 16th & 18th November 2020**
No discussion required for information only.
- h. **Feedback from clerk in relation to focus group attendance at the Greater Cambridge Planning Committee**
SEM advised that the purpose of the focus group was to review how things were going for parishes since changes in planning. SEM advised DDPC that she raised issues they had previously with the constant barrage of discharge of conditions and also the frustration DDPC had experienced trying to arrange a meeting with planning.
- i. **For info – email from SCDC re: changes to the planning committee notifications**
The email was circulated to councillors prior to the meeting. The changes have occurred from the beginning of the week and an emailed weekly report has been received and circulated, one report has the current applications in the parish and the other applications within the district that are going to committee, SEM believes this system will prove more helpful in the process of checking applications for DDPC.

10. Consultations

- a. **Gamlingay Neighbourhood Plan – 7th September – 30th October 2020**
SL advised that as this is a much bigger parish than DDPC, some distance away and that no comments are required, all councillors agreed.

11. Finance and Policy

- a. **To accept account review to date and bank reconciliation**
Bank reconciliation (see Appendix 2) and finance spreadsheet were circulated to all councillors before the meeting, DDPC RESOLVED to accept and approve the accounts and bank reconciliation.
- b. **To advise of payments received**
 - i. **SCDC – Final precept instalment - £7,474.50**
- c. **Payments made between 9th September 2020 and 6th October 2020**
 - i. **Brookfield Groundcare – Cut 4 - £360.00** - All councillors agreed payment RESOLVED. Payment approved online by SL and JD. *Public Health Act 1875, s.164; Open Spaces Act 1906, ss.9 and 10; Commons Act 1899*
 - ii. **Brookfield Groundcare – Cut 6 - £360.00** - All councillors agreed payment RESOLVED. Payment approved online by SL and JD. *Public Health Act 1875, s.164; Open Spaces Act 1906, ss.9 and 10; Commons Act 1899*
- d. **Payments to hand**
 - i. **S Etherington-Meech – Period 6 – Incremental Backpay & Expenses - £59.49** - All councillors agreed payment – RESOLVED. Payment to be approved online by SL and JD. *Local Government Act (LGA) 1972, s.112*
 - ii. **This item came in after the agenda was produced - Brookfield Groundcare – Grass Cut 7 of 10 - £360.00** - All councillors agreed payment RESOLVED. Payment to be approved online by SL and JD. *Public Health Act 1875, s.164; Open Spaces Act 1906, ss.9 and 10; Commons Act 1899*
 - iii. **This item came in after the agenda was produced – PC Window Cleaners – Bus Shelter Cleaning - £15.00** - All councillors agreed payment RESOLVED. Clerk to contact PC Window Cleaners for bank details so that bank transfer can be made

then SL and JD to approve payment online. *Local Government (Miscellaneous Provision) Act 1953, s.4*

- e. **To consider budget review in November, clerk budget training 15th October 2020**
SEM advised that the budget review for 2021/22 is to be reviewed at for next parish council meeting in order for the precept to be set in January, SEM advised that she will be attending training in October before the budget review.
- f. **To consider bank signatories for Lloyds and closure & transferring of the savings accounts**
It was advised that SL and JD are still to sign forms in order for EP to have online access to the Lloyds bank account. SEM advised that Lloyds recommended to her that with dual signatory accounts more than two people should have access to online banking in case something was to happen to one of the signatories. SL proposed and all councillors agreed, unanimous decision for five out of seven councillors to become signatories with online access, Cllr F Peck and EP to have online access and SA to be added to the account and given online access too RESOLVED.
SL advised that currently interest rates are very low in the markets and as the Cambridge Building Society account and NS&I account have previous councillors as signatories and are difficult to access he proposed that DDPC start the process of closing the accounts and transferring the balances to Lloyds for the time being, all councillors agreed, a unanimous decision RESOLVED. **Action** – SL and SEM to investigate the process for closing the savings accounts.

12. To accept notices and matter for the next agenda

Please note that no decisions can lawfully be made under this item. LGA 1972 s12 10(2) (b) states that business must be specified; therefore, the Council cannot lawfully raise matters for discussion.

- TSH – East West Rail Plans - update

13. Date and time of next meeting – Tuesday 3rd November 2020 at 7.30pm

EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

That in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the public and press be excluded, and they are instructed to withdraw, Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960.

14. To discuss clerk's holiday entitlement (5 years continuous service in May 2020) & pension set up progress

This item is included in the confidential minutes

Meeting closed at 9.18pm

Signed.....Chairman

Dated.....

Appendix 1

Action Report/Ongoing Issues

6.1	2021/22 LHI Application for Oak Crescent (ongoing)	SL/LH
6.2	2020/21 LHI and Legacy Fund (Pam Hobson) update on progress of works	SL/LH
6.3	Park Lane Verges/Cycle path upgrade/line painting/drainage (ongoing)	SL/LH
6.4	Quotation from Brookfield/exact location & frequency and grass cutting reimbursement query for CC (SL)/"listed to cut" info (SEM) (ongoing)	SL/SEM/LH
6.5	Landowner contact re: allotment fencing	SL/JD/SEM
6.6	Drift clearance – progress for working party	SL/JD
6.7	Tidy up of area in front of fence at Pettitts Lane	SL
6.8	Old Rectory Windows concerns (ongoing)	SL
6.9	Completion of direct debit mandate for ICO (Data Protection Registration)	SL/JD
6.10	Recruitment of volunteers for village speed watch team (Ongoing)	SL/JD
6.11	Planning comment submission – Scotland Farm, Irwin centre, 50 & 52 High St	SEM
6.12	Draft letter re: hedging/signage 'Pathfinder' Long Distance Walk	SL
6.13	Village Hall Management Committee Meeting Attendance Update	KC
6.14	Arrangement of new councillor training (ongoing)	JD/KC/FP
6.15	SCDC - Road verge management – more info received?	SEM
6.16	Progress on LED upgrade to streetlights	DDPC

Appendix 2

DRY DRAYTON PARISH COUNCIL
Aug 20 – Oct 20 Bank Reconciliation

	£
Lloyds TSB current account on 28 th August 2020	£17,406.04
<u>Less</u> payments presented from 28 th August 2020 to 1 st October 2020 <i>4 online payments, 1 direct debit and 1 standing orders</i>	£1,576.86
<u>Plus</u> , receipts presented from 28 th August 2020 to 1 st October 2020 <i>1 bank giro credit received</i>	£7,474.50
Closing bank account on 1 st October 2020	£23,303.68
<u>Less</u> outstanding payments not yet subtracted	£40.00
Balance carried forward at 1st October 2020	£ 23,263.68

<i>Plus</i> , NS&I Investment Account as at 1 st April 2020	£5,174.03
CBS S106 Account as of 1 st April 2020	<u>£7,060.61</u>
	£35,498.32

Notes:

Sarah Etherington-Meech

RFO

5th October 2020

Appendix 3

Cambridgeshire County Councillor's Report Dry Drayton Parish Council - 06 October 2020 meeting

Health & Social Care

An agenda item for the September meeting of Adults committee included the results of a survey carried out to determine service user experience at district level. The survey covered the period 2018/19 but in reading it, one item did attract my interest. Even at that time South Cambridgeshire came out highest on those who said they had as much social contact as they wanted, or at least felt they had adequate social contact. This would seem to reflect well on the communities in our rural villages and since that time we have had the Covid-19 epidemic with all the excellent work that was done by the local support groups. However, at a recent parish council meeting, the councillor who co-ordinated the Dry Drayton support group expressed concern about isolation and loneliness in the village. A separate item on the Adults committee agenda reported on the council's People and Communities Recovery Plan. Following the first phase of the pandemic it highlighted, among other impacts, isolation becoming the new pandemic and the potential effect of that on health and wellbeing.

That same report was also on the agenda for the September meeting of Children & Young People committee. The impact of the pandemic so far, whilst different, has also been profound for children and young people who were affected by the disruption to their education and their very high degree of need for socialising with their peers. They are also affected by seeing the stress being caused to their parents and carers through financial pressures.

As the days shorten and the weather becomes increasingly less supportive of outside activities and particularly as we all recognise that Covid-19 is still among us and restrictions on our social lives will continue, is there something that can be done to prevent people feeling lonely or to support mental health and wellbeing in the local community. I have seen some very simple ideas being piloted in other villages and would be happy to support similar efforts in Dry Drayton. It is interesting to note also that many funding sources are now focused on Covid-19 recovery so may be supportive of any projects that the community might like to pursue.

On the subject of Covid-19, we are all aware that nationally numbers of cases are rising again and latterly hospital admissions are also seeing an increase. The figures for South Cambridgeshire remain lower than the national average and certainly much lower than in some of the areas of the country which are as a consequence, now experiencing local lockdowns. This makes it all the more necessary that we all remember the basics that we have had instilled into us from the start, now neatly summarised by the government as "Hands - Face - Space".

The national shortage of lab testing capacity for Covid-19 has also been felt locally. The return of children to school with their usual autumnal colds and coughs and the similarity of those symptoms to those of Covid-19 has of course put additional pressure on the system and I have had to follow up recently on concerns that residents have brought to my attention. The next Health committee meeting [15 October] will include updated information which I will share with you when it is available.

At the September meeting of Health committee, members in their scrutiny function received a report from Cambridgeshire & Peterborough NHS Foundation Trust. This is the trust that is responsible for delivery of community physical health services and for mental health services. As with other parts of the NHS, many of the trust's staff were redeployed to Covid-19 related roles. The consequence of this was the complete suspension of some services such as stepped care therapy, memory assessment service, tissue viability and falls. There was also a service reduction with the trust accepting only urgent/critical referrals.

Since June the trust has been returning staff to their previous roles and restoring service levels. All services have now re-opened, although some are not operating from as many sites as they did previously. It has continued the use of the Attend Anywhere platform for virtual consultations and will continue to only provide face to face services where this is the only option. Virtual consultations are currently running at over 50% of all consultations.

Education

In July this year the government announced a one-off universal £650 million catch-up premium for the 2020/2021 academic year. This was allocated to ensure that schools have the support they need to help all pupils make up for lost teaching time. The coronavirus (COVID-19) catch-up premium funding is available for all state-funded mainstream/special schools and alternative provision. The Education and Skills Funding Authority has now published details of the provisional allocation of this funding. A first payment of 25% of the provisional allocation was paid to local authorities on 30 September for onward payment to schools such as Dry Drayton Primary School. The payment is calculated on a full entitlement of £80 per pupil [aged 4 years or over] and for the number of pupils reported in the October 2019 census.

Household Recycling Centres

A reminder that you still need to book an appointment to visit the recycling centres. Bookings can be made on line at: <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/waste-and-recycling/bookingsystem-for-household-recycling-centres>

Covid-19 Household Recycling Centre restrictions

Essential use only for items that cannot safely be stored at home

- Wash your hands before and after your visit
- Max. 2 adults outside the vehicle
- Stay 2 metres apart from each other at all times
- No staff assistance to unload vehicles
- Vehicles limited on site and must follow traffic management
- Vehicles & trailers must pre-book via an online booking system
- Stay at home
- Don't visit sites if anyone in your household is suffering from Covid-19 symptoms or are self-isolating

Stay alert, control the virus, save lives



Local matters

Land adjacent to the A1307

Immediately upon being made aware of the situation I contacted appropriate county council officers. The land in question is part of that which is currently under the supervision of Highways England as part of the Development Consent Order for the work on the A14C2H project. The appropriate action to address the situation is therefore now being undertaken by Highways England.

The county council's enforcement officer has visited the site and spoken with the current occupants. I am regularly in touch with him and it is he who has confirmed those details to me. He is continuing to monitor the situation and will work with highways officers on appropriately securing the land once it is handed back to the county council later this year. I will of course keep you updated with any further information as it becomes available.

I look forward to seeing you at your meeting.

Lynda - lyndaharford@icloud.com; 01954 251775/07889 131022; follow me on Twitter: @2whit2whoop

Keep caring for Cambridgeshire & Peterborough

Face coverings are compulsory in enclosed public spaces

This includes shops, supermarkets, shopping centres, enclosed transport hubs and on public transport

Don't leave home without yours

Coronavirus hasn't gone away

To prevent the spread of Coronavirus, regularly wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and warm water

For more information on how to protect yourself, visit [NHS.uk/coronavirus](https://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus)

Public Health England NHS
Cambridgeshire County Council

Appendix 4

At Council on 24 September we were pleased after national negotiations to raise our earlier 2% pay award to staff to 2.75%. It is still a poor reward for the sterling work our officers have performed during this testing period.

We had a very long member motion from the leader of the opposition on bullying, though our Code of Conduct already covers it. I annoyed both sides by refusing a LibDem motion for significant changes but accepting one which immediately referred the motion to the Civic Affairs Committee.

We also approved a motion to explore the possibility of taking over authority from the police for imposing fines for parking offences, and one to support a parliamentary private member's Local Electricity Bill.

I mentioned a while back that the Centre for Public Scrutiny (now the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny, CfGS) had been asked to investigate how our Scrutiny Committee is working. Covid has slowed down the process so we have only just had a response and a Webinar on their findings. Despite some very valuable comments it was not clear that the subsequent Scrutiny meeting on 7 October really took them on board in its debates.

I am very pleased that the Council is offering all staff and Councillors a free flu vaccine, a sensible step as our exposure to covid in South Cambs seems to be increasing significantly. The Council has also agreed to make available grants to parish support groups for items such as sanitiser, printing and supporting those in acute need due to hardship and an immediate need to self-isolate. Further funding can also be awarded by officers if groups require it to manage local outbreaks.

I mentioned last month that the Call for Sites for the Local Plan has resulted in a very large number of proposals: some seven times the need; and that officers are now sifting through the result weeding out the manifestly unsuitable. Tories are now accusing the LibDems of creating unnecessary fear by releasing the figures so early (though this is an officer issue, not an administrative one). It makes a change from their previous charges of a lack of transparency.

Douglas de Lacey

Appendix 5

District Councillor's Report - Cllr Tom Bygott

Responses to the Greater Cambridge Local Plan consultation

The consultation was held in January and February, seeking feedback on what should be in the next Local Plan covering both South Cambridgeshire and Cambridge City.

There were some interesting responses to policy questions: 97% of website responders strongly agreed that tree cover should be increased, compared to only 44% of more detailed written responses. 43% of website responders strongly disagreed that more houses should be planned than the required minimum, compared to only 6% of the second group. It would be interesting to see what proportion of householders versus developers answered via each of these channels.

Responses have also been published to a Call for Sites, which is a way for developers and landowners to suggest development sites. This also included sites suggested last year and a Call for Green Sites. The two councils received 658 site submissions covering over 16,000 hectares of land and estimate that the sites could hold 170,000 to 200,000 houses, and around 5.8 square km of employment and other floorspace. The Call for Green Sites yielded an even larger area, nearly 29,000 hectares, including the entire Cambridge Green Belt.

Sixteen sites are proposed in Dry Drayton totalling 575 hectares for about 12,750 houses and 406,000 sq m of floor space for other uses. These sites comprise almost all the open countryside around the village, connecting it with Bar Hill. It is important to note that many more sites have come forward district-wide than necessary, so only a small proportion are likely to proceed; they comprise one sixth of the area of the district and three times the number of houses already built.

However, the next public consultation won't occur until Autumn 2021. It is extremely irresponsible for the councils to publish a full list of sites with a full year before the time when local residents can have their say. The contents of this list will create a great deal of anxiety and distress in our villages before action can be taken to reject the most egregious suggestions.

Reform of the planning system

With the flaws in our current system on display through the Call for Sites, the question arises whether there is a better way. The Planning for the Future consultation, tinyurl.com/y5d4jw8v, is open until 29th October.

To understand the proposed changes, it is also necessary to read the report of the Building Better Building Beautiful Commission, called tinyurl.com/LivingWithBeauty which explains some of the cryptic phrases in the consultation, such as 'fast track to beauty' and 'gentle densification', which are considerable departures from meanings in the English language, as we currently understand it.

The report starts well, with the proposition that traditional architecture, in its many and varied forms, is superior and more highly regarded by most people than the modernist style that has held sway for the past century. The report's authors have a vision for Georgian squares of the kind that grace central London replacing ugly twentieth century buildings. There have been some successes of this style of redevelopment, such as Paternoster Square and Richmond Riverside.

'Gentle densification' means demolishing low density areas and replacing them with buildings of a 'gentle density', namely town houses and apartments up to five stories. There may be some places in the uglier parts of London, Milton Keynes or failed new towns where this might be an improvement, but it would be a disaster if this were allowed to happen in our villages.

In politics, there is a concept called pluralism, where people are free to choose from a variety of different beliefs. Architecture and town planning need this as well, with many different types and styles of building and people free to vote with their feet. Village houses are needed for people who want to have children or who like gardening, with high rise apartments and city centre living for those who want something else.

Cllr Tom Bygott cllr@bygott.net
07765 475 513

DRAFT