

**Draft until signed**  
**Minutes of Dry Drayton Parish Council (DDPC) Meeting**  
**Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021 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)

**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), 5 members of the public

**1. To Accept Apologies for Absence**

No apologies were received. Cllr E Wickham was not in attendance, no apology received.

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

No declarations of interest were declared.

**3. To Agree to hold a Public Forum**

No items were raised by the public under this item.

**4. To Approve the Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2020**

It was RESOLVED that the minutes be approved and signed by the chairman as a true and accurate copy of the meeting.

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

5.2, 5.3, 5.4, 5.5, 5.7, 5.11, 5.15, 5.16 are all ongoing issues with no updates currently

5.1 Discussed under Item 9.7

5.6 SL advised that he received a kind offer from Richard Stamford (resident) to start clearing this area, SL has offered to help him and to source a spade for works.

5.8 SL is awaiting a response from the village speed watch team as to whether any volunteers have come forward.

5.9 SL advised that Highways have looked at signage on Scotland Road and it is acceptable, so item is to be removed from the action list.

5.10 No letter produced yet, however; SL has tried contacting Stephen Kelly.

5.12 EP advised she is due to attend next meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

5.13 EP & SA advised that they visited the area before Christmas and do not believe that money should be spent until drainage issues either side are sorted, and KC also confirmed some trees in the area are about to come down or have come down and these will need cutting back. The area involved is from Pettitts Close corner to Oakington Rd/Park Street, see Item 7 – LH to investigate.

5.14 SA is going to attend the next new councillor training session on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

5.17 SL advised that this item must seriously be considered in the current situation, SL requested that EP speaks to the village hall management committee (VHMC) to see if there is anything that they are able to do.

5.18 Updates to the Lloyds account are progressing and clerk has now successfully managed to close the NS&I and Cambridge Building Society accounts.

**6. Chairman's Report**

- SL advised DDPC that following the parish council meeting on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2020 he received a disappointing email from a resident advising that they felt DDPC appeared disinterested and ineffective in relation to the discussion with Pegasus. SL felt that the questions from the public were answered although not as fully as was expected and apologised if he had not pushed, he felt it was not appropriate to push Andrew Hodgson (AH) or cause him any embarrassment. AH had requested attendance at the meeting as he had wanted an update. SL reiterated that it has been recorded in previous minutes that DDPC can only support the proposal if the parish are in support.
- SL advised that he spoke with James Palmer (Mayor of Cambridge and Peterborough) and introduced DDPC to ensure DDPC are able to contact him in the future and if a serious matter occurs DDPC are part of the process. SL advised that James Palmer seemed affable to that and agreed that there should not be lots of different parties with different transport strategies from Cambourne into Cambridge.

- SL highlighted that at the last parish council meeting he had said he would contact the VHMC to hold the PPE DDPC had purchased, however, the decision was made that it would be more appropriate for the school to hold the equipment, so it is now there.
- SL highlighted that in relation to a resident email relating to issues of flooding in Scotland Rd, contact has been made with CCC and Highways as it is their responsibility.

#### **7. To Accept a Report from County and District Councillors**

For LH report see Appendix 3.

- LH advised that in relation to issues at Park Lane she is trying to get this dealt with and is disappointed it was not rectified before Christmas but assured that this item had not come off her list of ongoing items.
- LH raised awareness that if a road is closed it applies to everyone including pedestrians unless they are accessing their properties, DDL reiterated this item.
- LH advised that the council's verge maintenance scheme is progressing well and that they will be looking to pilot the rewilding of verges with a small number of parishes and asked if DDPC would like to be considered as a pilot parish, all councillors agreed to be put forward for the pilot scheme.
- LH advised that she has made a note regarding Footpath 8 (mentioned in Item 5.13) as this is the responsibility of CCC and she will get someone to look into maintenance of this area.
- LH advised that she is aware of the resident referred to by SL in Scotland Road and she has asked one of the team that delivers county responsibilities as lead local flood authority to investigate as she is convinced that the issue is not just about the drains itself but something else is contributing to it. DDPC also raised concerns over potholes and LH advised that these must be reported on the Highways portal, KC reported these during the meeting. SA also highlighted that the bungalow by the school was flooded outside, LH confirmed that this was rectified but appears bad again so she will get someone to investigate this issue.

For DDL report see Appendix 3.

- Further to his report DDL wanted to highlight the issue of loneliness and how the Covid-19 Response Group in Girton and the church have set up for calls to be made to regularly check in on vulnerable and lonely residents.
- DDL also advised that he had received reports of several scams in relation to Covid-19 vaccines and that no-one will ever be asked for money for a valid test or injection, it will be a scam.

For TB report see Appendix 4

- Further to his report TB advised that SCDC have pledged to give a £10.00 min hourly rate to all staff and agency workers (excluding apprentices) which TB fully supports.
- SCDC have now launched a shop local directory where local business can put online how they are dealing with Covid-19 restrictions and what services are available, the website to encourage local businesses to upload their details is [scams.gov.uk/local-business-directory](https://scams.gov.uk/local-business-directory).

#### **8. To Discuss Planning Matters**

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

- a. **Applications received for consideration**
  - i. **Numerous non-material amendments relating to the windows and roof - 20/01669/HFUL – Keepers End, Scotland Rd – For information only**
- b. **Decisions received from South Cambs District Council – no decisions received**

#### **9. Matters for discussion/correspondence received**

##### **9.1 To discuss promotion of participation in the 2021 Census in March**

An email had been received to promote participation of the 2021 census in March, **Action JD** to ensure circulation of this item by Les Waters and the parish newsletter.

##### **9.2 Refreshed pre-application planning service**

This email was received for information and changes are relevant for applicants.

##### **9.3 To discuss the email received from Stephen Kelly (Head of Planning) re: Call for Sites and specifically the Thakeham's new town proposal for South-West Cambridgeshire development**

SL advised that no response is required at present and this is an item to watch out for in the future within the call for sites process.

**9.4 To discuss mud on the road in the parish and dangers raised by residents**

SL thanked residents for their emails he was sent regarding the dangers of mud on the road in the parish and at the time that this occurred SL did try to raise this issue with the landowner, highways have been involved and this is an issue that will continue to be monitored.

**9.5 Cambourne to Cambridge Local Liaison Forum – Cllr Houlihane to provide feedback from forum**

TSH advised that there was nothing substantive to report other than pushing for an on-road option into Cambridge not out of Cambridge. TB advised that the Local Liaison Forum (LLF) is a group of parish, district and county councillors and other interested parties formally convened by GCP and when the GCP sets a date to discuss a proposal/meeting they will organise an LLF meeting to precede it.

**9.6 For info – electric bikes Cambridge and Peterborough from January**

An email was received for information – no discussion required

**9.7 To discuss and approve the 2021/22 LHI feasibility report and costings**

SL advised that he has received the feasibility report and costings for the 2021/22 LHI application that DDPC submitted and in relation to costings the estimated cost of the project is £18,607.00 with a 19.4% contribution from DDPC estimated at £3,600.00, he highlighted that at this phase this is only an application and still needs to go through approval. In relation to the feasibility report the key consideration was to do something in relation to the damaged and deeply rutted areas due to the lack of available parking at Oak Crescent. The report highlights that works will work around trees in order to not disturb them, create a lay-by before the bus stop, realign the curbs and on the other side of the eastern end of the bus stop cut away asphalt and create white lines. SL stated that he believes the feasibility report has come up with the most workable plan for the area and as this is a problem that is not going away and residents deserve action.

It was raised as to whether residents of Oak Crescent could be approached to contribute to the project, however, SL and LH confirmed that as the area concerned is the highway and does not have allocated parking for residents any member of the public would be free to use the spaces. SL said that he understands this is a substantial contribution that DDPC will have to make, however, he proposed that DDPC pursue the application, SA seconded, and it was RESOLVED by a unanimous decision to proceed with the feasibility report. JD highlighted that residents must know the expectations of the project, and someone needs to advise them. SA suggested that an article is placed in the village newsletter and SL advised that he would arrange for something to be published, however, he did highlight that residents of Oak Crescent had and have been previously invited to attend meetings when this item has been discussed.

**9.8 To discuss annual streetlighting contract renewal with Haven Power**

It was discussed that as the clerk only arranged a streetlighting supplier a year ago and Haven Power had been substantially more competitive than the other three quotations that were received, SL proposed, JD seconded, and it was RESOLVED by a unanimous decision to extend the contract for another year and consider a supplier review once the LED upgrade has been carried out.

**9.9 To discuss proposed solar farm at Childerley and letter received from Gareth Hawkins at Solarcentury**

SA advised that he has a call scheduled tomorrow afternoon with Gareth Hawkins (GH), it was highlighted that previous applications (S/1714/15/FL & S/0146/14/E1 & 04419/SCRE) have been made. SA will provide DDPC with an update following the meeting and also offer GH a 10-minute slot at the next parish council meeting.

## 10. Consultations

### 10.1 Flightpath consultation for Luton Airport – deadline for comments 5<sup>th</sup> February 2021

The consultation was reviewed at the meeting and it was proposed by SL, seconded by KC, and RESOLVED by a unanimous decision that DDPC would object to the consultation due to loss of rural amenity. **Action** – SL to carry out more research and draft an objection letter.

### 10.2 Highways Service Stakeholder Survey – deadline for comments 31<sup>st</sup> January 2021

DDPC agreed there was no relevant input needed so no comments to be made.

### 10.3 Sunnica Energy Farm – Burwell – deadline for comments 29<sup>th</sup> January 2021

DDPC agreed no comments to be made as the proposal would not affect the parish.

## 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. The clerk advised that she has also closed the NS&I and Cambridge Building Society accounts and monies have been transferred into the Lloyds Account.

### b. To advise of payments received

i. **Graveley PC – Zoom Contribution - £72.00**

ii. **NS&I – Closure of S106 monies savings account to Lloyds - £5,211.27**

### c. Payments made between 26<sup>th</sup> November 2020 and 29<sup>th</sup> December 2020

i. **Brookfield Groundcare – Cut 9 of 10 (Inv 12839) - £360.00** - Payment was approved online by SL and JD. *Public Health Act 1875, s.164; Open Spaces Act 1906, ss.9 and 10; Commons Act 1899*

ii. **Haven Power (DD) – Streetlighting (Nov 20) - £29.14** - *Parish Councils Act 1957, s.3; Highways Act 1980, s.301*

### d. Payments to hand

i. **Clerks Overtime & Expenses – Period 9 - £66.08** - All councillors agreed payment RESOLVED. Payment to be approved online by SL and JD. *LGA 1972, s.112.*

ii. **Additional payment** - Clerk has received a notification that the Microsoft Office 365 package on her parish council laptop is expiring on 16<sup>th</sup> January and would be £59.99 per annum to renew – all councillors agreed and RESOLVED to pay the renewal as the package is needed for the clerk to carry out her role.

### e. To consider finalising the budget and to set the precept for 2021/22

SL made further amendments to the latest draft budget and circulated it to councillors for their review before the meeting. SL advised that DDPC understand this has been a hard year for many due to the pandemic and would like to keep precept increases to a minimum, however, with a deficit of £4,000 an increase will be required, and a 3% increase was proposed from last year's precept amount. SL stated that although general reserves are healthy these can dwindle, SA highlighted that he was uncomfortable signing off a budget with a deficit. SL explained that in previous years there have been precept cuts and when last year's budget was discussed the deficit was raised as a concern and the precept subsequently increased and he believes that no major new projects should be considered in 2022/23 to recover the deficit.

SA & EP raised concerns that a 3% increase would not be quite enough to provide a safety net and SL highlighted that with the precept being cut and not increased in previous years it was already behind when it was set last year, and a small increase would get DDPC back to where they should be after cuts in previous years. SL explained that DDPC is made up of mainly new members who are visibility doing things for residents and expenditure is now bigger and feels just an extra 1% increasing to 4% would help. SA & EP agreed and highlighted that DDPC may have additional expenses following the Covid-19 pandemic and should be available to help the community if necessary and reserves should be there for this purpose and not to cover deficit. SL agreed and suggested that some S.106 monies are moved over in the budget for the 2021/22 LHI application contribution. It was proposed by

SL, seconded by SA, and RESOLVED by a unanimous decision to increase the precept by 4% in the 2021/22, the final precept figure being £16,175.00. The budget is to be finalised at the February meeting.

**f. To adopt policies - Lone Worker Policy**

Clerk has not had a chance to review due to holiday will put forward to next meeting.

**12. To accept notices and matter for the next agenda**

**13. Date and time of next meeting – Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2021 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.

There were no confidential items to discuss

Meeting closed at 9.38pm

Signed.....Chairman

Dated.....

DRAFT

## Appendix 1

|      |   |                     |
|------|---|---------------------|
| 5.1  | 2021/22 LHI Application for Oak Crescent (ongoing)  | SL/LH               |
| 5.2  | 2020/21 LHI and Legacy Fund (Pam Hobson) update on progress of works  | SL/LH               |
| 5.3  | Park Lane Verges/Cycle path upgrade/line painting/drainage (ongoing)  | SL/LH               |
| 5.4  | Brookfield quotation/exact location/frequency & grass cutting reimbursement query (CCC)   | SL/LH               |
| 5.5  | Landowners contact re: allotment fencing  | SL/JD               |
| 5.6  | Tidy up at the Drift, fence at Pettitts Lane & footpaths – progress for working party   | SL/JD               |
| 5.7  | Old Rectory Windows concerns (ongoing)  | SL                  |
| 5.8  | Recruitment of volunteers for village speed watch team (ongoing)  | SL/JD               |
| 5.9  | <del>Draft letter re: hedging/signage 'Pathfinder' Long Distance Walk</del>   | <del>SL</del>       |
| 5.10 | Draft and circulation of a complaints letter to planning re: processes  | SL                  |
| 5.11 | Update on the Pegasus consultation for a new development  | SL                  |
| 5.12 | Village Hall Management Committee Meeting Update  | KC/EP               |
| 5.13 | <del>EP &amp; KC to liaise and arrange chippings for Long Lane<br/>SL to produce risk assessment/contact landowner to store chippings on delivery</del> | <del>EP/KC/SL</del> |
| 5.14 | Arrangement of new councillor training (ongoing)  | JD/KC/SA            |
| 5.15 | <del>SCDC – Road verge management – more info received?</del>   | <del>SEM/LH</del>   |
| 5.16 | Progress on LED upgrade to streetlights   | DDPC                |
| 5.17 | Progress with scheme for loneliness/vulnerable in parish  | JD                  |
| 5.18 | Update on bank signatories and closure of savings accounts  | SL/SEM              |

Appendix 2

**DRY DRAYTON PARISH COUNCIL**  
December 2020 Bank Reconciliation

|  | <b>£</b>       |
|--|----------------|
| Lloyds current account on 30 <sup>th</sup> November 2020   | £22,457.60     |
| <u>Less</u> payments presented from 30 <sup>th</sup> November 2020 to<br>31 <sup>st</sup> December 2020<br><i>1 online payment, 2 direct debits and 1 standing order</i> | £551.24        |
| <u>Plus</u> , receipts presented from 30 <sup>th</sup> November 2020 to<br>31 <sup>st</sup> December 2020<br><i>2 bank giro credit received</i>                          | £5,283.27      |
| Closing bank account on 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2020   | £27,189.63     |
| <u>Less outstanding payments not yet subtracted</u><br>Brookfield Groundcare (Cut 9 of 10) - £360.00<br>Clerks Overtime & Expenses (Period 9) - £66.08                   | <b>£426.08</b> |
| Balance carried forward at 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2020  | £ 26,763.55    |

|   |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| <i>Plus,</i>  |                   |
| CBS S106 Account as of 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2020 | <u>£7,082.99</u>  |
|   | <b>£33,846.54</b> |

Notes:

*Sarah Etherington-Meech*

RFO

5<sup>th</sup> January 2021

## Appendix 3

### Cambridgeshire County Councillor's Report Dry Drayton Parish Council - 05 January 2021 meeting

So, here we go again! Since my last report the whole of Cambridgeshire escalated from Tier 2 to Tier 4, the previous five day amnesty for Christmas was reduced to just one and the festive plans of many of us had to be scaled down even further than first anticipated and, now from today we're back in national lockdown. I realise that there are other sources of information on the guidance but the following is a summary of the basics which I hope you will find helpful.

The basic guidance is for people who are fit and well. There is additional advice for people who are clinically extremely vulnerable to coronavirus [CEV] and households with a possible or confirmed coronavirus infection. Those who are CEV should not attend work, school, college or university, and limit the time they spend outside the home. They should only go out for medical appointments, exercise or if it is essential. For these people it will be necessary to reinstate the village support system that was in place in the spring last year. Please let me know if I can help with this.

#### **STAY AT HOME - PROTECT THE NHS - SAVE LIVES**

##### **When can you leave home?**

You must not leave or be outside of your home except where you have a 'reasonable excuse'. This will be put in law. The police can take action against you if you leave home without a 'reasonable excuse', and issue you with a fine [Fixed Penalty Notice - £200 for the first offence, doubling for further offences up to a maximum of £6,400].

A 'reasonable excuse' includes:

**Work** - you can only leave home for work purposes where it is unreasonable for you to do your job from home. This includes but is not limited to those working within critical national infrastructure, construction or manufacturing that require in-person attendance

**Volunteering** - you can also leave home to provide voluntary or charitable services.

**Essential activities** - you can leave home to buy things at shops or obtain services for yourself or on behalf of a disabled or vulnerable person or someone who is self-isolating.

**Education and childcare** - you can only leave home for education, registered childcare and supervised activities for children where they are eligible to attend. Access to education and children's activities for school-aged pupils is restricted. There is further information on education and childcare. People can continue with existing arrangements for contact between parents and children where they live apart. This includes childcare bubbles.

**Meeting others and care** - you can leave home to visit people in your support bubble [if you are legally permitted to form one], to provide informal childcare for children under 14 as part of a childcare bubble [to enable parents to work, but not to enable social contact between adults], to provide care for disabled or vulnerable people, to provide emergency assistance, to attend a support group [of up to 15 people], or for respite care where that care is either being provided to a vulnerable person/person with a disability, or is a short break relating to a looked-after child. **Exercise** - you can continue to exercise alone, with one other person or with your household or support bubble. This should be limited to once per day, and you should not travel outside your local area. You should maintain social distancing.

**Medical reasons** - you can leave home for a medical reason, including to get a COVID-19 test, medical appointments and emergencies.

**Harm and compassionate visits** - you can leave home to be with someone who is giving birth, to avoid injury or illness or to escape risk of harm [such as domestic abuse]. You can also leave home to visit someone who is dying or someone in a care home [if permitted under care home guidance], hospice, or hospital, or to accompany them to a medical appointment.

**Animal welfare reasons** - you can leave home for animal welfare reasons such as to attend veterinary services for advice or treatment.

**Communal worship and life events** - you can leave home to attend or visit a place of worship for communal worship, a funeral or event related to a death, a burial ground or a remembrance garden,

or to attend a wedding ceremony. You should follow the guidance on the safe use of places of worship and must not mingle with anyone outside of your household or support bubble when attending a place of worship. Weddings, funerals and religious, belief-based or commemorative events linked to someone's death are all subject to limits on the numbers that can attend, and weddings and civil ceremonies may only take place in exceptional circumstances. **Other** - further reasonable excuses include leaving home to fulfil legal obligations or to carry out activities related to buying, selling, letting or renting a residential property, or where it is reasonably necessary for voting in an election or referendum.

### **Exercising and meeting other people**

You should minimise time spent outside your home.

It is against the law to meet socially with family or friends unless they are part of your household or support bubble. You can only leave your home to exercise, and not for the purpose of recreation or leisure (e.g. a picnic or a social meeting). This should be limited to once per day, and you should not travel outside your local area.

You can exercise in a public outdoor place by yourself, with the people you live with, with your support bubble [if you are legally permitted to form one], in a childcare bubble when providing childcare or, when on your own, with one person from another household.

Public outdoor places include: parks, beaches, countryside accessible to the public, forests, public gardens [whether or not you pay to enter them], grounds of heritage sites, playgrounds. Outdoor sports venues, including tennis courts, golf courses and swimming pools, must close. **Remember**: when around other people, stay two metres apart from anyone not in your household or your support bubble. Where this is not possible, stay one metre apart with extra precautions [e.g. wearing a face covering]. You must wear a face covering in many indoor settings, such as shops or places of worship where these remain open, and on public transport, unless you are exempt. *This is the law.*

The majority of public services will continue and you will be able to leave home to visit them. These include:

The NHS and medical services like GPs and dentists. The county council is supporting the NHS to carry out urgent and non-urgent services safely, and **it is vital anyone who thinks they need any kind of medical care comes forward and seeks help**.

Jobcentre Plus sites, courts and probation services, civil registrations offices, passport and visas services, victim support services, waste recycling centres, MOT services for those needing to drive when legally leaving home.

The good news is of course that we now have two different vaccines approved for use.

Locally the vaccination programme is underway and the following is the published prioritisation list:

1. Residents in a care home for older adults and their carers
2. All those 80 years of age and over and frontline health and social care workers
3. All those 75 years of age and over
4. All those 70 years of age and over and clinically extremely vulnerable individuals[footnote 1]
5. All those 65 years of age and over
6. All individuals aged 16 years to 64 years with underlying health conditions which put them at higher risk of serious disease and mortality
7. All those 60 years of age and over 8. All those 55 years of age and over
9. All those 50 years of age and over

*From the Government web page: It is estimated that taken together [1-9] these groups represent around 99% of preventable mortality from COVID-19.*

Please wait to be contacted about an appointment for vaccination.

I apologise for both the extreme lateness of this report and for concentrating on just one subject. It was in fact waiting for news of this that caused the lateness. I look forward to seeing you all later. Take care. Stay safe.

Lynda [lyndaharford@icloud.com](mailto:lyndaharford@icloud.com); 01954 251775/07889 131022; follow me on Twitter: @2whit2whoo

#### **Appendix 4**

Christmas is always a fairly quiet period, though this year we had to cope with rapidly changing Government decrees; so, I have very little to report. On 11 December I planted a tree to commemorate (belatedly!) the 75th anniversary of the end of the war -- a Magnolia species 'Heaven Scent'. My Executive Assistant Suzanne Roy organised our annual collection for Christmas presents for Fulbourn: normally we encourage Councillors to offer gifts but this year the Hospital said it could not accept these, so we had to ask for money. Suzanne then in collaboration with the Hospital bought and wrapped presents over the weekend before Christmas. We have had very appreciative responses.

You will not be able to travel through Girton between 15 and 17 February: we have received a Temporary Traffic Order to close Girton High St from the Woodlands Park junction to Cockerton Rod during this period. The official diversion is via Histon, Milton and Chesterton.

Like many others I am concerned at the effect closing Cambridge Market will have both on traders and on customers who will now have to use stores for their food shopping. I have written to the Portfolio Holder and to the Strategic Director expressing my views and asking for the decision to be reversed.

Douglas de Lacey

## Appendix 5

District Councillor's Report - Cllr Tom Bygott

1/12/2020

### Best wishes to all for the new year

I would like to offer my very best wishes to everyone in the village, and hope that you have all had a great Christmas and New Year.

Twelve months ago, I wrote that the New Year should be a time for optimism and set out a list of some of the good things that might happen in 2020. It is difficult to make predictions, especially about the future. Nonetheless, what was on my list has gone well, but it obviously didn't include Covid-19, so I'll have a second try at wishing everyone a happy and successful 2021!

Even with the pandemic, we are starting to see light at the end of the tunnel, as the vaccination programme is rolled out. More information on this is available at the NHS website:

[www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/coronavirus-vaccine/](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/coronavirus-vaccine/)

### Blue Plaque for the creator of Thomas the Tank Engine

I was honoured to attend the unveiling of a blue plaque to the Rev W Awdry in the village of Elsworth on December 8<sup>th</sup>. Wilbert Vere Awdry (1911 - 1997) was a clergyman, railway enthusiast and hugely successful children's author who created the enduringly popular Railway Series of books and characters, including the much-loved Thomas the Tank Engine.

As Rector of the parish of Elsworth, he lived at the Rectory there from 1946 to 1952, where he wrote five of the books. They began as a father's stories to amuse his three year old son, Christopher, in bed with measles. By 1972 he had written 26 books, handing over to Christopher, who wrote a further 16.

The blue plaque is located on a barn in the grounds of the Old Rectory, Church Lane, Elsworth, facing the entrance to the churchyard. It is the second in a series of plaques to mark important historical events and to honour the contributions of individual people in South Cambridgeshire District. The Cambridge and District Blue Plaques Committee, of which I am a member, has been active in Cambridge City since 2000 and has recently been extended into the District.

More information on blue plaques, run locally Cambridge Past, Present and Future, can be found at: [www.cambridgeppf.org/pages/category/blue-plaques](http://www.cambridgeppf.org/pages/category/blue-plaques). Please let me know if you have any suggestions for future plaques in the village, the criteria for which are listed on the above website.

### Cambourne to Cambridge (C2C) Guided Busway

On December 10<sup>th</sup>, the Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP) Board voted to proceed with further preparations on its preferred route, requiring 3,000 trees to be cut down along a strip of land nearly 3km long past Hardwick, and concreting over a significant stretch of countryside for a Park and Ride at Scotland Farm. This decision is premature because:

1. A location has not yet been decided for the East West Rail (EWR) station at Cambourne, which should be a key destination for the route. Options for the preferred railway alignments and station locations will be published and consulted on next year.
2. The C2C route will eventually become part of the Cambridgeshire Autonomous Metro (CAM). This means that whatever vehicles are chosen for the CAM must be able to use this route. The technical specification for the CAM has not yet been published. This is the subject of a procurement exercise, with three of the ten potential suppliers expected to submit designs in March 2021.

It would be better to build several smaller car parks along the route so that traffic isn't funnelled through the village to get to one parking location.

One of the greatest threats to Dry Drayton and surrounding villages is that we will be swallowed up by an expanded Cambridge City. If that happens, it will be an overcrowded, chaotic and poorly planned city that we will be living inside.

Well-planned transport infrastructure can avoid that fate by enabling new housing and development to be built further away in areas that currently have low levels of economic growth and would benefit from and welcome more development. This requires a strategic long-term vision, with a properly thought out plan and the various transport agencies and project teams working constructively together.

Cllr Tom Bygott [cllr@bygott.net](mailto:cllr@bygott.net)  
07765 475 513

DRAFT