

Draft until signed
Minutes of Dry Drayton Parish Council (DDPC) Meeting
Tuesday 2nd March 2021 at 7.30pm, via virtual Zoom meeting online

Present: S Lander (SL) (Chair), S Aldersley (SA) (Vice-Chair), E Pyle (EP) (Councillor), T Houlihan (TSH) (Councillor), K Cullen (KC) (Councillor), E Wickham (EW) (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), 7 members of the public

1. Election of Vice-Chair

It was proposed by EP, seconded by TSH and RESOLVED by a unanimous vote to elect SA as Vice-Chair, SA accepted the post.

2. To Accept Apologies for Absence

No apologies.

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

There were no declarations of interest.

4. To Agree to hold a Public Forum

Members of the public raised the following:

- The issue of the proposed cycle track from Oakington Rd to the NMU track on the A14 (A1307). Further to the published minutes of Cambridgeshire County Councils (CCC) Highways and Transport Committee meeting on 19th January 2021 a member of the public highlighted that the Dry Drayton cycle track scheme did not go through as the scheme is not shovel ready. The minutes noted that the obstacle was land acquisition and although the land being asked for was slight the financial compensation being sought was excessive and officers were keen not to set a precedence. Concern was raised as to the missed opportunity for 2021/22 highways monies. However, it was further highlighted that the minutes said there may be a second tranche next year and if a scheme has not gone through now it may go through next year.

At the same meeting, the countywide local walking and cycling infrastructure plan, set out their criteria for which these proposals would be considered in future and the public feel some criteria would be unhelpful such as anticipated increase in number of cyclists, route to school and in particular if there are negative landowner issues. The public are concerned that the scheme will fail again next year even though money is available and were keen to ask if there is anything DDPC can do to move this forward. The public raised that there needs to be either an agreement with the landowner or to energise someone to make a compulsory purchase on the tiny amount of land. It was questioned whether DDPC could contact PX Farms to try to get goodwill on their part by pointing out that this is a much-needed facility for the village that could potentially save lives and will fail if demand for compensation is too high. If this does not work, then could DDPC energise someone at CCC to start a compulsory purchase of the land or could a land swap be considered. The public stated that with three suggestions put forward it would be inappropriate to just wait and not get moving on this issue.

SL thanked the public for the discussion and reassured that DDPC wholeheartedly want this project in place, and they have it on good authority from Cllr Harford that the local authority does want to provide this scheme for the parish and have a commitment to it. SL advised that he has contacted the landowner last June in relation to this issue and unfortunately the landowner was not forthcoming to assist. He explained that CCC are trying to deal with this issue and even though compulsory purchase is a last option that is not a straightforward process. SL explained that he would not be dismissive of the third option for a land swap, but this would have to go through the local authority and not DDPC, although it was highlighted by SL that the landowner does have significant plans in the Call for Sites for the said area.

LH clarified one point in that although the scheme is not shovel ready this year, she did speak in the afternoon to the Cycling Officer at CCC and it was agreed that as far as they are

concerned this is a scheme that will go ahead. LH advised that there is a £175,000 original allocation from funds other than Highways England that is already there, and the Cycling Officer confirmed that quality will not be compromised on the scheme. LH confirmed that CCC officers are looking at all options and although compulsory purchase is an option it will be a last resort. LH advised that she has agreed with the Cycling Officer today that they will speak separately with the person who allocates the monies from the Highways England legacy monies to see if anything firm can be given to reassure that what is being told is true and that the scheme will go ahead.

- A member of the public explained that as part of the Greater Cambridge City Deal in 2014 there was a commitment given for 1,000 additional homes on rural exception sites by 2031 and to date only about 100 have been approved or are in the process of being built, of those 25 homes have been built in Dry Drayton over the last two years but are not on the list. It was questioned if:
 - DDPC would support the current planning policy for green belt around the village and resist this being cast aside in the 2023 local plan.
 - DDPC intend to engage with parishioners to get their view for development in the village.

SL advised that DDPC will engage with the parishioners at some point but need to wait until sites come forward and that DDPC are 100% for protection of the green belt which is demonstrated in comments submitted last week in the Call for Sites survey they completed.

5. To consider applications for one casual vacancy

No applications received for the vacancy.

6. To Approve the Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 2nd February 2021

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

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

- 7.1 SL advised that he had an interview for the LHI application in relation to Oak Crescent and awaits an outcome.
- 7.2 No update on the legacy fund, **Action** SL to take this issue higher.
- 7.3 Park Lane is now free of water, SL thanked LH. He also advised that the landowner has carried out works to the drainpipe that was sticking out of the ditch on Madingley Road.
- 7.4 SL is to contact Brookfield
- 7.5 LH included in her report that the drains are to be resolved but does not have a timescale.
- 7.6 SEM advised that an email had been received today advising that the deer are damaging the allotment again, **Action** SL to contact landowner asap for permission to erect fencing.
- 7.7 RESOLVED – to be removed
- 7.8 To be removed from the list – being dealt with by SCDC
- 7.9 SL requested volunteers contact Graham Carver (details for contact in the Dry Drayton newsletter)
- 7.10 Ongoing issue
- 7.11 Ongoing issue, no update from Pegasus
- 7.12 EP advised that the village hall now has an official address, and the committee are working on getting WIFI installed. The AGM is on 22nd April and general agreement by the committee is not to reopen the hall until sometime after the 21st of June in line with government advice.
- 7.13 EW to attend councillor training on 27th March 2021
- 7.14 SEM advised that she has chased this issue but has received no update
- 7.15 SL to get SA to countersign in order for EW to be added as a signatory

8. Chairman's Report

- SL thanked everyone for attending last week's extraordinary meeting and for their fantastic effort, he advised that SEM managed to submit comments for all sites by Friday evening. SL also thanked villagers who had emailed him comments and he advised that he would respond.
- SL apologised for missing the deadline for the March village newsletter, he will respond for the next issue.

- SL recorded his disappointment that planning permission has been granted for the Bourn Airfield site due to the inevitably for permission to be granted without public infrastructure in place and he highlighted that with 3,000 homes to be built there is a huge failing for substantial projects to be allowed to go through without traffic plans.
- Issue of dog poo being left in residents' gardens and he highlighted the need to be respectable by clearing up dog poo and taking litter bags home. He advised that he is just awaiting a response from SCDC for an extra dog waste bin to be placed at Duck End near the new Townlands Trust land.
- Thanked Dr Carr for regularly clearing litter around the village and to a young resident who has assisted in keeping the village tidy also.
- Potholes are an issue with a number still on Oakington Rd. It was highlighted in the parish email circulation that through the Highways Fault Reporting system there were 57 live reports of potholes and other highways faults in Dry Drayton as of 28/02/21. SL stated that although Dry Drayton are on the list, they need to be higher priority as Oakington Road potholes are causing damage to cars.
- SL thanked Cllr DeLacey for all the support he has provided for the parish as he would be retiring at the end of the month and thanked him personally for the guidance and support, he has provided SL with since he joined DDPC in July 2019.

9. To Accept a Report from County and District Councillors

- LH report (Appendix 3)
- DDL report (Appendix 4). DDL said that he was sorry to have to be stepping down and he has enjoyed working with DDPC and being their District Councillor.
- TB report (Appendix 5). TB asked the parish councillors for one of them to volunteer to attend a workshop run by Cambridgeshire Police on 11th March at 6pm in relation to gypsy/traveller issues and in particular unauthorised encampments.

10. To Discuss Planning Matters

a. Applications received for consideration

i. 20/05387/HFUL - 40 Pettitts Lane - Single storey front extension

RESOLVED by a unanimous decision that DDPC support this application.

ii. 21/00270/HFUL - 42 Pettitts Lane – Single storey rear extension and conversion of garage to a bedroom

RESOLVED by a unanimous decision that DDPC support this application.

iii. Strawberries & Creem known as Childerley Orchard – Application for a new premises licence - deadline for comments 9th March 2021

SL highlighted that the application includes a three-year plan whereby attendance numbers will increase over a three-year period. It was highlighted that although the event will be very tightly controlled in terms of access to the site and has many policies on issues such as drugs, drinks and security Dry Drayton will clearly suffer noise pollution on the two weekends. EP highlighted that the first event is due to take place on the 19th and 20th June 2021, however, the earliest this could now happen is the 21st of June, SA advised that the website for the event states the organisers are looking to reschedule to a weekend later in the year. RESOLVED by a unanimous decision that the only valid objection to be submitted by the clerk on behalf of DDPC was that of noise pollution for the parish.

b. Decisions received from South Cambs District Council – no decisions received

11. Matters for discussion/correspondence received

11.1 To discuss and review the return to face-to-face meetings from May 2021 and agree date for Annual Parish Council Meeting

Guidance for a return to face-to-face meetings was circulated by CAPALC and NALC and the main issue highlighted is that current regulations expire on the 7th of May 2021 and then parish councils must return to face-to-face meetings. SEM advised that the Associations for Local Councils are lobbying for this date to be extended, however, councils must prepare if no extension is granted. CAPALC have advised that parish councils consider holding their Annual Parish Meeting (APM) and Annual Parish Council Meeting (APCM) while current

regulations permit them to be held remotely, therefore, SL proposed to hold both the APM (7pm) and the APCM (7.30pm) remotely on Tuesday 4th May 2021, SA seconded, and it was RESOLVED with a unanimous decision. An issue raised by SL that may occur if no extension to remote meetings is granted is that the village hall will not reopen until after the 21st of June 2021.

11.2 Correspondence received from resident in relation to verge rewilding with verge suggestion

SEM advised that an email was received from a resident in response to this item being discussed at the last parish council meeting and a suggestion put forward that the verge outside The Laurels at 50a High Street be considered within the scheme. SEM explained to the resident that Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) are currently at the stage of discussing a pilot scheme for which DDPC have requested they are considered for. DDPC advised that they will consider this area if they are accepted for the pilot scheme.

12. Consultations

12.1 South Cambs Housing Strategy - New housing policies relating to Build to Rent, Clustering and Distribution of Affordable Housing and Affordable Rent Setting – deadline 23rd March 2021

TSH advised that the policies all seem sensible, and he believes no comments are required at this stage of the consultation, all councillors agreed.

12.2 The Cavendish School – Section 10 consultation – deadline 18th March 2021

All councillors agreed that no comments were required for this consultation.

12.3 Waterbeach Neighbourhood Plan – deadline for comments – 20th April 2021

All councillors agreed that no comments were required for this consultation as it is outside of the immediate locality.

12.4 Independent audit of the Cambourne to Cambridge Better Public Transport Project – deadline 29th March 2021

SL advised that he completed this survey on behalf of DDPC.

13. 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. Allotment Rents - £36.00

c. Payments made and agreed via email between 1st February and 25th February 2021

i. CAPALC – Councillor Training Fee for Cllr Cullen and Cllr Aldersley - £150.00 – Local Government Act (LGA) 1972, s.175

ii. Cambridge Water Business - Allotment water rates - £103.06 – Small Holding and Allotments Act 1908, ss. 23 25

iii. Haven Power (Direct debit) – 01/01/21 – 31/01/21 – Streetlighting Energy - £30.16 – Parish Councils Act 1957, s.3; Highways Act 1980, s.301

iv. Salary (Standing Order) and Pension (Direct Debit) – Period 10 - £454.02 – LGA 1972, s. 112

d. Payments to hand

i. Clerks Expenses – Period 11 - £13.00 - All councillors agreed payment RESOLVED. Payment to be approved online. LGA 1972, s.112

ii. CAPALC – Clerk's budget training (15/12/20) Inv no 2282 - £15.00 - All councillors agreed payment RESOLVED. Payment to be approved online. LGA 1972, s.112

iii. Received after agenda was produced – CCC – Wigwags and MVAS contribution - £1,200

SL advised that although these items were now in place they are not in full working order as the flashing lights are not working in the morning or evening and DDPC agreed that they were not willing to pay the invoice until the lights are working fully.

If rectified this invoice is to be included for payment at the April meeting. **Action –**
SL to discuss with Highways.

e. To discuss outstanding invoices for councillor training from CAPALC

SEM advised that she received an email last year from CAPALC to settle a number of invoices that she had never received. SEM has investigated all invoices and now just one for councillor training is outstanding and being looked into by CAPALC as no cancellation was made by either SEM or Cllr Dolan for the unattended session. SEM reiterated to DDPC the importance of advising CAPALC at least a week before if they are unable to attend training sessions.

f. To discuss the CAPALC affiliation fees for 2021/22 and renewal of membership

Documents were circulated to councillors prior to the meeting and the affiliation fee for 2021/22 for DDPC is £300.68 and with membership to the Data Protection Officer (DPO) Scheme is £350.68. RESOLVED by a unanimous decision for renewal of membership with the DPO scheme at £350.68.

14. 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.

15. Date and time of next meeting – To be agreed

Tuesday 6th April 2021 at 7.30pm, APM & APCM on Tuesday 4th May 2021 at 7pm

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.

16. Clerks Appraisal

In confidential minutes

Meeting closed at 8.56 pm

Signed.....Chairman

Dated.....

Appendix 1

Action Report/Ongoing Issues

7.1	2021/22 LHI Application for Oak Crescent (ongoing)	SL/LH
7.2	2020/21 LHI and Legacy Fund (Pam Hobson) update on progress of works	SL/LH
7.3	Park Lane Verges/Cycle path upgrade/line painting/drainage (ongoing)	SL/LH
7.4	Brookfield quotation/exact location/frequency & grass cutting reimbursement query (CCC)	SL/LH
7.5	Update on maintenance at Pettitts Close corner to Oakington Rd/Park Street/Footpath 8/flooding at bungalow outside the school	LH
7.6	Landowners contact re: allotment fencing	SL
7.7	Tidy up at the Drift, fence at Pettitts Lane & footpaths	SL
7.8	Old Rectory – improvement works (ongoing)	SL
7.9	Recruitment of volunteers for village speed watch team (ongoing)	SL
7.10	Draft and circulation of a complaints letter to planning re: processes	SL
7.11	Update on the Pegasus consultation for a new development	SL
7.12	Village Hall Management Committee Meeting Update	EP
7.13	Arrangement of new councillor training – 27 th March 2021	EW
7.14	Progress on LED upgrade to streetlights	DDPC/SEM
7.15	Update on bank signatories and online access to bank account	SL

Appendix 2

DRY DRAYTON PARISH COUNCIL

February 2021 Bank Reconciliation

	£
Lloyds current account on 31 st January 2021	£33,152.37
<u>Less</u> payments presented from 31 st January 2021 to 28 th February 2021 <i>4 online payments, 2 direct debits and 0 standing order</i>	£435.27
<u>Plus</u> , receipts presented from 31 st January 2021 to 28 th February 2021 <i>2 bank transfers received</i>	£36.00
Closing bank account on 28 th February 2021	£32,753.10
<u>Less outstanding payments not yet subtracted</u>	£0.00
Balance carried forward at 28 th February 2021	£ 32,753.10

Notes:

Sarah Etherington-Meech

RFO

1st March 2021

Appendix 3

Cambridgeshire County Councillor's Report Dry Drayton Parish Council - 02 March 2021 meeting

Budget News

The County Council held its annual budget meeting on 09 February. I am very pleased that the budget allocations that I had worked to promote, were included within the approved budget. Of all the services that the county council is responsible for, there is one that touches absolutely every resident, whether they walk, cycle, drive, are conveyed through the good offices of someone else or receive delivery of goods and services. That service is Highways. There may be other services that, of necessity command bigger budgets, but every pound of the Highways budget is spent on delivering a service that is used in some way by all Cambridgeshire's residents.

I am pleased to confirm that to augment the current footpath budget of £1.3m, an additional £20m has been allocated for footpath maintenance over the next five years. 50% of this will be spent on surface treatments with the other 50% being allocated for more radical work such as resurfacing and reconstruction. £2.73m additional funding has been approved for measures to prevent flooding and improve local biodiversity. This will include rapid gully clearing at all known risk sites and better verge maintenance on rural roads, some advance information about which I have previously reported in the hope that these proposals would be funded.

£6.97m has been allocated for improvements to the B1050 Shelfords Road, Willingham. The condition of this busy route, one of only a limited number of river crossings, and a main commuter route from the fens to Cambridge, has been a cause for concern for some years. Despite significant work being regularly undertaken to keep it safe and serviceable, its historic construction, destabilised by poor ground conditions, dictates the necessity for a full reconstruction to prevent what otherwise would be its ultimate closure.

These additional investments and closure of a predicted budget gap of £9.6m in the 2021/22 budget are facilitated through releasing an immediate £4.115m in revenue, by pausing further topup allocations to the council's Transformation Fund from its Minimum Revenue Provision [MRP]. Redeployment of £3.67m already allocated to the Transformation Fund closes the remaining gap and supports the council's objective of keeping any council tax rise as low as possible. Council tax for the next year has been set at 1.99% plus a 1% Adult Social Care precept. This 2.99% in total equates to an additional £40.59pa on a Band D council tax bill [78p per week].

Health & Wellbeing

In the past week there has been a continued reduction in Covid-19 rates, with some areas in Cambridgeshire now showing infection levels well below 100 cases per 100,000. Rates across the whole county are reducing, but they remain very high in Fenland where the reduction is slower. The council continues to work hard with the district council and other partners in Fenland to prevent and reduce the spread of the virus.

Although locally rates are moving in the right direction, they are still much higher than last summer. It is therefore essential that people continue to follow the lockdown rules, as preparations start for implementation of the Government's Roadmap for Covid-19 Response that has now been published. The number of patients with Covid-19 in our hospitals is reducing but is still significant, and sadly we are still seeing deaths from Covid although these continue to fall in number. The rate of Covid-19 cases in Cambridgeshire was 98 cases per 100,000 population for the week ending 20th February, showing a 20% reduction on the previous week. You can view the latest case rates for Cambridgeshire on a daily basis using the Government data website:
<https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/details/cases?areaType=utla&areaName=Cambridgeshire>

The council is continuing to support the CCG with the roll-out of the vaccination programme. The NHS is now publishing the numbers of people vaccinated in each lower tier [district or city] local authority area. Details at: [Statistics » COVID-19 Vaccinations \(england.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk/statistics/covid-19/vaccinations)
Across the whole of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough NHS Sustainable Transformation partnership, nearly 230,000 people [based on data up to 21st February 2021] had received at least one dose of vaccine, with thousands more joining the list each week.

The council is encouraging people to accept the vaccine when it is offered. It is critical to ensure that as many people as possible across the county are vaccinated against Covid-19. If you are able to, please help to share this important message. Details of the national vaccination programme and some useful Q&As can be found here: [COVID-19 national vaccination programme | Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Clinical Commissioning Group \(cambridgeshireandpeterboroughccg.nhs.uk\)](https://www.cambridgeshireandpeterboroughccg.nhs.uk/covid-19-national-vaccination-programme)

The local Community Rapid Testing programme, using lateral flow tests, continues to attract good numbers and the council is encouraging people aged 18 and over who are key workers or are having to leave home regularly for work, volunteering or training, to access the tests. A good number of businesses have also signed up to take part in workplace testing. In the coming weeks, it is hoped to offer pop-up testing at different sites across the county to make testing even more convenient and accessible.

With rates of Covid-19 still well above the levels seen last summer, the council's surveillance cell, outbreak management team, contact tracing service, and those providing the range of support available for more vulnerable people who are self isolating, remain busy. Work continues through close collaboration with district and city council Covid-19 teams on prevention and rapid response.

The Education Team is now working flat out with schools to make sure they are ready for all children to return to the classroom. In secondary schools, all children will be required to wear face coverings whilst at school and to have a rapid test twice a week.

Loneliness is a continuing concern. Simple things like waving to a neighbour in the street, having a socially distanced chat, or making a phone call to someone, are just some of the ways we can all help to tackle loneliness during lockdown. The council's #50000reasons campaign was launched to encourage people to make contact with neighbours and friends. The name of the campaign comes from statistics that suggest that as many as 50,000 people who live alone across Cambridgeshire are at risk of experiencing loneliness. Isolation through lockdown restrictions can lead to people reflecting negatively on their lives putting them at risk of further ill health and suicidal feelings. Against that background small gestures can make a big difference. For more information: <https://www.bewellcambridgeshire.co.uk/resources-and-campaigns/50-000-reasons>

Education

Despite central government investment which has led to around 4,500 laptops being distributed to children in need, research shows there are around 8,000 children and young people across Cambridgeshire & Peterborough who are being severely disadvantaged because they do not have access to the IT equipment or broadband they need. The education service has set itself a target to secure sufficient funding to ensure that every child and young person in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough has both the equipment and access to broadband that they need to maintain continuity

of their learning and education at home. To date £130,000 has been secured specifically to support maintained schools through increasing the number of laptops available to children in the two authorities. This is sufficient to purchase 400 Windows laptops and cover the distribution costs. A business case is in preparation for grant funding of another £130,000 from one of the COVID grant allocations managed by Public Health. [SEP]

A Peterborough company has already pledged a £100,000 donation to Peterborough schools and made a commitment to match fund donations from other businesses. [SEP]

A partnership has been established with the Youth Panel, Cambridge Digital Partnership, Cambridge 2030 and the Library Service for a campaign, Digital Drive Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, which includes setting up a collection and distribution network for anyone wishing to donate used Windows laptops to schools. All donated laptops will be collected by the Library Service and delivered to the Youth Panel which will remove and destroy all hard drives [and data] and refurbish laptops so that they are in good working order. They will then be given to schools across the county for distribution to the children and young people who need them. This initiative launched on 06 February. Every library in Cambridgeshire is being set up with a simple drop box located in the entrance which can be accessed during the published opening times: <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/libraries-leisure-culture/libraries/visit-a-library>

Anyone wishing to donate their old laptop[s] to a named school, or school serving a particular area, will be asked to include this information when they take it to one of the collection points. The service is also working to create an online system whereby businesses, other public bodies and individuals can make a financial donation in a fast, secure way. A dedicated enquiries inbox has been set up to manage any enquiries: LaptopsForChildren@cambridgeshire.gov.uk. [SEP] Other local charities and organisations that specialise in the recycling/reformatting of old laptops are also engaged in this initiative. A communications and engagement plan will aim to raise awareness of the initiative, share FAQs and key information, and direct the target audience to donate.

I look forward to seeing you all at your meeting. Take care. Stay safe. *Lynda Harford*

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Follow me on Twitter: [@2whit2whoo](https://twitter.com/2whit2whoo) or Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/lynda.harford>



Appendix 4

I much regret that this is the last report I shall present to you as your District Councillor. In order for my seat to be contested in May I shall have to resign no later than 26 March. I also regret that I did not attend the extraordinary meeting, and that I have no excuse. Mea culpa and I crave forgiveness.

February is all about finance as we prepare the annual budget. It is clear that in a very difficult year the administration has managed to be a good steward of our finances, in no small part because of earlier decisions to invest heavily in property as central Government cuts our grants. So although we are putting 10p a week on our precept we should manage to survive the coming year without major cuts. Cabinet met on 3 February to finalise the figures, which had been through Scrutiny's January meeting.

Much of the full Council meeting on 23 February related to the budget and the setting of Council Tax for the coming year. But there were also three motions from members. The first focused on the problems caused by HGV, an issue I know is close to your hearts, so I quote the essence of the motion as approved in full:

“We believe the way to tackle these issues is:

- a) to encourage local communities to report HGV infringement of current restrictions;
- b) to encourage the police to take action against persistent offenders;
- c) to encourage satnav companies to incorporate the County's advisory freight routes into their systems;
- d) to encourage firms to move towards hybrid or electric vehicles as ways of cutting emissions rather than relying on heavier, longer vehicles;
- e) to encourage the installation of appropriate 20mph speed limits, along with physical highway restraints, in the areas worst affected;
- f) to use planning conditions to prevent or mitigate the problems, as appropriate”

This Council requests that the Leader write to the Secretary of State for Transport to request that the government take fully into account the effects of HGV traffic on rural communities, as set out above, when considering changes to current regulations on weight, and include supporting evidence of the increase referred to.

This Council requests that the Leader also write to the County Council to request that it facilitates the use of measures set out above to make our village roads safer and improve the daily lives of our residents, along with supporting evidence of the increase referred to above.

The second motion was to support the designation of the proposed Fens Biosphere as a UNESCO Biosphere; and the third asked our pension fund holders to assess the risk which climate change poses to their investments.

On 25 February the major item on Scrutiny's agenda was a report on our ICT data centre following a report on outages in the previous quarter. This led to a lively discussion on the robustness of our ICT with respect to a number of potential threats, including (since I was able to report a current ransomware attack on a University -- not in Cambridge) external attacks. We gave our ICT team a lot to think about. We then discussed report on how we should handle our housing repairs service; whether to take it back in-house, continue to contract it out or to have a hybrid service so that

minor repairs could be better managed. Since this is a long-term issue the current contract has been extended for one year to allow a fully informed decision.

Other than that the reports on our business plan; our covid-19 response task-and-finish group; and our anti-racism task and finish group were accepted without comment.

Douglas de Lacey

DRAFT

District Councillor's Report - Cllr Tom Bygott - 1st March 2021

Heritage Buildings under threat

The Old Rectory has recently been placed on the Greater Cambridge Buildings at Risk Register. South Cambridgeshire District Council has maintained a register of listed buildings at risk for several years and it has recently carried out a review with the purpose of identifying buildings at risk of neglect, lack of maintenance, vacancy or vandalism, in the hope of working with owners to address any immediate risks and urgent works.

Built in 1830-31, the Grade II listed Old Rectory was once the residence of the Rector of St Peter and St Paul parish church. In most English villages, the vicarage or rectory is traditionally the second largest or finest house after the manor house. Our manor house, Drayton Park, was established sometime before 1655 and was owned in the eighteenth century by the Dukes of Bedford. It was demolished in 1817 leaving the Rectory to become the most important house.

I very much hope that one day we will see the Old Rectory restored to its former glory. It has been hidden behind overgrown vegetation for so long that few people have lived in the village for long enough to remember that it was once visible along much of Park Street and the Village Green. When that day comes, and the restored house is unveiled, it will be a sight of awe-inspiring majesty.

We should however put the Old Rectory's current situation into perspective, because the two greatest threats to architectural heritage are not wind and rain, but institutional use and property developers. We can see how these two dangers operate by looking at the sad case of the Hotel Felix (www.hotelfelix.co.uk) on Huntingdon Rd in nearby Girton.

The Hotel Felix was built in 1852 as a private residence called at various times Howe House, Howes and The Close. When the value of its land reached a point when no individual or family could afford it own it, it went through a series of institutional uses. In 2002, it was converted into a luxury boutique hotel. In order to fund the restoration, and "make the project economically viable", planning permission was granted to add two wings of hotel rooms. Although fully restored to a very high standard and in excellent condition, far from being saved, this placed the building in much greater danger by increasing its value and floor area into the range where it became attractive for even more destructive institutional use. The hotel was sold in 2018, closed last year and the new owners intend to demolish it and build an 80-bed nursing home.

The main reason given for wanting to demolish the Hotel Felix is to avoid changes of level within the facility. This basically comes down to the fact that the ground floor is raised above ground level and that the ceilings are higher than those found in modern buildings. High ceilings are one of the main reasons why Victorian buildings are demolished. Developers often want to cram as many floors as possible of lucrative, paying uses into the available volume, and see no use for anything beyond basic necessity.

Villagers in Girton are forming a campaign group with the support of the Victorian Society, www.victoriansociety.org.uk, ahead of a planning application expected in early March. If you would like to get involved to help Girton save its much-loved building, please let me know.

Retirement of Councillor de Lacey

My colleague Douglas has announced his upcoming retirement in this month's issue. We have been District Councillors together since 2008 when the late Councillor Eustace Bullman retired.

I would like to wish him a very happy retirement and thank him for all the hard work and dedication he has put into serving the village on the District Council over many years, and for his continuing work on Girton Parish Council.

Changes to Luton Airport flight paths

London Luton Airport currently shares arrival routes and holding stacks with Stansted Airport. National Air Traffic Services (NATS) and Luton Airport have recently held a joint consultation to flightpaths, with the aim of separating Luton and Stansted's routes further out and higher up to reduce delays, noise and pollution, and to ensure safety.

The current holding stacks for both airports are above Sudbury in Suffolk and Royston. These are proposed to remain for Stansted Airport, with a new holding stack for Luton Airport north of St Neots and west of Huntingdon. Aircraft on the new approach route to this stack will fly over Bury St Edmunds, Newmarket, Dry Drayton village, Cambourne and St Neots. They will fly over the village at an altitude of between 8,000 and 11,000 feet, and while not as loud as on the new approach to Luton Airport over the Bassingbourn area, the difference in noise levels will be noticeable.

More information can be found on the NATS website at:

<https://www.nats.aero/news/arrival-routes-into-london-luton-airport-set-to-change/>

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