

Draft until signed
Minutes of Dry Drayton Parish Council (DDPC) Meeting
Tuesday 1st March 2022 at 7.30pm, at Dry Drayton Village Hall, High Street

Present: Cllr S Aldersley (Chair), Cllr K Cullen, Cllr T Houlihane, Cllr E Pyle, Cllr S Vale

Attending: Mrs S Etherington-Meech (Clerk/RFO), Cllr E Murphy (County Councillor), 1 member of the public

1. To Accept Apologies for Absence

Apologies were accepted from Cllr S Lander (absent due to illness), Cllr E Wickham (absent due to work commitments). Cllr C Garvie and Cllr T Bygott (District Councillors) sent their apologies.

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

The member of the public noted the robust response that Cllr Bygott and DDPC had sent to the planning committee in relation to the Section 73 application at 65 Pettitts Lane. It was highlighted that unfortunately the minutes of the subsequent delegation meeting on the 15th of February 2022 were not yet available, despite them typically being published within 2-7 days of the meeting. The public said that they would be interested to peruse the correspondence that Dyason Developments (Item 7. c. i.) have sent to DDPC, Cllr Aldersley sent a copy of the email to the resident during the meeting.

4. To Approve the Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 1st February 2022

RESOLVED ^(Prop Cllr Aldersley, 2nd Cllr Pyle, unanimous) that the minutes of the meeting be approved and signed by the chairman as a true and accurate record.

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

- 5.1 Letter drafted to Lorraine Casey, Charlotte Peet & Enforcement requesting a satisfactory response in relation to complaints with planning and procedures at GCP- Covered in Item 7. c. ii.**
- 5.2 Zoom meeting with Highways to discuss transport issues to be arranged with Cllr Aldersley, Cllr Murphy, and members of the Speed Watch team – ongoing issue.**
- 5.3 Update on road surface repairs for Pettitts Close – Cllr Murphy believes this is included in the Highway's programme of improvement. However, she is unaware if a timeframe has been set.**
- 5.4 Update on dangerous footpath between Hill View & Trinity Stables – Cllr Murphy advised that this should be discussed with James Broder at Highways.**
- 5.5 Progress on NMU – Cllr Murphy has chased this item. Progress is being made, and she will keep DDPC, and residents updated when she has further information to share, see report in Appendix 3.**
- 5.6 SCDC survey of trees – Item no longer relevant, Cllr Aldersley instructed it to be removed.**
- 5.7 Circulate SCDC Community Chest Fund details to Cllrs following meeting with Emma Dyer – RESOLVED – Cllr Aldersley advised that this item has been actioned.**
- 5.8 Section 106 projects from Townlands Trust - Cllr Aldersley is awaiting a response.**
- 5.9 Publish litter pick date for 26th March in newsletter – RESOLVED.**
- 5.10 Update on 2022/23 LHI application – No update at present.**
- 5.11 Erection of additional poles for MVAS – Some works appear to have started, clerk to chase James Broder at Highways for an update.**
- 5.12 Discuss with Cllr Murphy the loss of trees on the roundabout – Cllr Murphy advised that as this is a programme for small planting it would be a District Council initiative. Cllr Murphy suggested DDPC liaise with Cllr Garvie and Cllr Bygott.**
- 5.13 Clerk to enquire with Section 106 Officer in relation to waste bin purchase – The Section 106 Officer at SCDC advised that a bin could not be purchased with Section 106 monies.**
- 5.14 Grass cutting – update plan and circulate for quotes/investigate responsibility of footpaths – Cllr Houlihane produced a plan which the clerk circulated to RH Landscapes and Cambs and Herts Ground Maintenance, SEM has not yet had a response from these two companies.**

Action – SEM to send map to current contractor Brookfield Groundcare and ask for costs for 2022 and to confirm no mow May in line with the discussions which Cllr Aldersley had with Brookfield at their meeting in January 2022.

- 5.15 Update on ordering of benches** - Cllr Aldersley advised that Cllr Lander had spoken with Cambridge Restoration and unfortunately, they are unable to offer a discount due to the cost of wood increasing. Cambridge Restoration has requested upfront payment of £1,850.00 to purchase wood for the project and to honour the quotation provided at the last parish council meeting. Purchase of benches was resolved at meeting of 1st February 2022. ACTION – Clerk to arrange upfront payment of £1,850.00 to Cambridge Restoration.
- 5.16 Village Hall Management Committee Meeting Update** – Cllr Pyle and the Clerk have inspected the Village Hall toilets prior to the meeting and full improvement works have not yet been completed, Cllr Pyle to chase up works with the committee.
- 5.17 Update on the Pegasus consultation for a new development DDPC** – No update.
- 5.18 Councillor photos and bios for website** – It was agreed that this should be actioned after the May elections.
- 6. To Accept a Report from County and District Councillors**
For Cllr Murphy report – See Appendix 3 – In relation to LHI applications, Cllr Murphy suggested DDPC engage with the Local Highways Officer at an early stage to assist forward planning for future projects. ACTION – Ideas for LHI to be added to the April agenda.

For Cllr Bygott report – See Appendix 4.

No report was provided by Cllr Garvie.

7. To Discuss Planning Matters

a. Applications received for consideration

- i. 20/03013/CONDA - Scotland Farm Scotland Road - Submission of details required by conditions 4 (Foul water and surface water drainage) and 7 (Wildlife Mitigation, Compensation and Enhancement Scheme) of planning permission 20/03013/FUL – Deadline for comments 4th March 2022**

RESOLVED ^(Prop Cllr Aldersley, 2nd Cllr Cullen, unanimous) that no comments were to be made for this application.

- ii. 22/00764/PRIOR - 40 Oakington Road Dry Drayton Cambridge – Single storey rear extension – deadline for comments 10th March 2022**

RESOLVED ^(Prop Cllr Aldersley, 2nd Cllr Cullen, unanimous) that no comments were to be made for this application.

- iii. 21/02835/FUL - Land at Church Farm Buildings Park Street - Erection of single storey detached dwelling of three-bedroom design with associated amenity space, parking, bin, and cycle storage – Application gone through appeal - deadline for further comments 28th March 2022**

RESOLVED ^(Prop Cllr Aldersley, 2nd Cllr Cullen, unanimous) that no amendment was to be made to the original comments submitted to Planning for this application and no additional comments made for the appeal.

b. Decisions received from South Cambs District Council

- i. 21/02882/FUL - Land at Church Farm Buildings Park Street Dry Drayton CB23 8BZ - Conversion of two vacant office suites (units 4 & 7) to provide two 1-bedroom dwellings with associated amenity space and car parking – Permission granted**
- ii. 21/02302/CONDA – 11 Pettitts Lane CB23 8BT - Discharge of condition 3 (Details of Works) of listed building consent – Discharge condition in part**
- iii. 21/05291/FUL – Springhill Stables CB23 8DE – Retention of mobile home – Refused Permission**
- iv. 21/05524/OUT - Land Off Park Lane CB23 8DB -Outline application for the erection of 1 No. dwelling with all matters reserved – Permission granted**
- v. 21/05524/OUT– Land off Park Lane, Dry Drayton – Delegated decision on 9th February 2022**

c. Development at 65 Pettitts Lane (21/04898/S73)

i. To discuss the letter received from Jane Jackson at Dyason Developments in relation to the Section 73 application

This letter was circulated to councillors prior to the meeting. It was agreed nothing further was to be discussed in relation to the letters content.

ii. To discuss correspondence and action required in relation to letter received from Stephen Kelly dated 11th February 2022 advising of deferral of application for consideration at a future delegation meeting.

Cllr Aldersley advised that he responded to Charlotte Peet in relation to the letter and asked for clarification on the points raised and he also raised concern over the Planning process in relation to this development.

d. To discuss letter received from Jane Jackson at Dyason Developments in relation to the Section 73 application for 65 Pettitts Lane

Item is a duplication in error of Item 7. c. i.

8. Matters for discussion/correspondence received

8.1 To provide an update on correspondence received from Donald O'Shea at Highways in relation to the flashing wigwags that are still not in operation

Email received from Donald O'Shea advising of the following:

'As a good will gesture, Simmons signs is kindly replacing one set of batteries and controller unit as they were destroyed due to water ingress. However, the installation will not happen until the reason for the water ingress has been investigated by our contractor. The aim is to remedy the issue of the water ingress to save further costs down the line. I understand the parishes frustration and we will endeavour to do our utmost to find a solution as soon as possible for Dry Drayton Parish.'

ACTION – Clerk to chase Donald O'Shea to request a timeframe for works.

8.2 To discuss the creation of a Highway Improvement working group for Dry Drayton^{SCA/EM}

ACTION - Cllr Aldersley advised that he would liaise with Joshua Rutherford at Highways to understand what is possible and can be done in relation to Highway Improvements in the parish, to assist future planning.

8.3 To provide an update on correspondence received from Richard Stamford in relation to tree ownership and footpaths

Richard Stamford informed the clerk via email that during previous investigations it was found that no trees in the parish were owned by the Parish Council. He also advised the clerk that previous discussions with Peter Gaskin (Rights of Way Officer at Highways) highlighted that in all cases the footpaths and accompanying trees in Dry Drayton were the responsibility of the adjacent landowner not the Parish Council or Highways e.g., Butchers Lane, Long Lane etc. ACTION – Land ownership to be investigated and Cllr Aldersley to put a note in the newsletter highlighting the need for footpaths to be tidied up by landowners.

8.4 To discuss the email in relation to the Community Chest Grant Funding from SCDC that is available for the Queens Platinum Jubilee

RESOLVED (Prop Cllr Pyle, 2nd Cllr Aldersley, unanimous) that an application is to be made for £700.00 towards the purchase of a jubilee bench for the Queens Platinum Jubilee – clerk to ACTION.

8.5 To discuss the running/administration of the allotments and creation of an allotment management committee

It was discussed that the first course of action is to forward the National Allotment Society bulletins to Graham Carter for the allotment holders and for Cllr Aldersley and the clerk to arrange a meet up with Graham at the allotments.

8.6 To provide an update on correspondence received in relation to the upcoming May elections

Les Waters has circulated correspondence received by the clerk to residents via the village email distribution service and Cllr Alderley is to post posters in the noticeboards. The clerk advised that the Notice of Election is to be published on 28th March and clerk to arrange a date with SCDC to drop off nomination forms between 28th March and 4th April 2022. CAPALC

has arranged sessions for the prospective councillor to attend for information and advice on Saturday 5th March and Wednesday 16th March.

8.7 To discuss reducing HGVs coming through the parish (Hilton Parish ban on HGVs)

Included in Cllr Murphy's report (Appendix 3)

8.8 To discuss reports made by Cllr Cullen to Highways by Cllr Cullen including a dead tree on the Village Green across from the church gate

Cllr Cullen advised that he has reported all areas of concern in the village to Highways and included photos. He is now awaiting a response but is aware they have a large backlog. Cllr Cullen has inspected the tree that appears to be dead more closely and it seems to be alive.

8.9 Feedback from Cllr. Houlihane on the first meeting of the EWR Local Representatives for South Cambridgeshire West (14th February 2022)

Cllr Houlihane gave DDPC a brief overview of his meeting and confirmed that there was nothing significant to report at present.

8.10 Feedback from Cllr. Lander on the S&VA meeting regarding the Queen's Jubilee

The Chairman adjourned this item to the April agenda as Cllr Lander was absent.

8.11 To consider email from OkoGroupe in relation to street trading consent for a semi-mobile cafe

The clerk explained that the OkoGroupe would like to attend a parish council meeting to discuss their proposal. The clerk has invited them to the April meeting although they may not be able to attend, ACTION clerk to invite OkoGroupe to the June parish council meeting.

9. Consultations

9.1 Cambridge Local Plan and South Cambridgeshire Local Plan: Adoption of the Greater Cambridge Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document – Adopted 7th Feb 2022 by SCDC

10. 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, RESOLVED (Prop Cllr Aldersley, 2nd Cllr Pyle, unanimous) to accept and approve the accounts and bank reconciliation

b. To advise of payments received between 26th January 2022 – 24th February 2022

i. No payments

c. Direct debits and standing orders paid between 26th January 2022 – 24th February 2022

i. Salary/Overtime/Expenses/Pension (Period 10) - £679.18 (LGA, 1972, s.112)

ii. Drax Energy – Streetlighting Energy – 01/12/21 – 31/12/21 - £32.79 (Parish Councils Act 1957, s.3; Highways Act 1980, s.301)

d. Online payments made between 26th January 2022 – 24th February 2022

i. Cambridge Water Business – Water bill for allotments - £81.31 (Small Holding and Allotments Act 1908 ss. 23-25)

ii. Dry Drayton Village Hall – Section 106 monies for ladies' toilets - £81.50

iii. Dry Drayton Village Hall – Hall Hire for 1st Feb 2022 (Inv 335) - £14.00 (LGA 1972, s.133)

iv. Dry Drayton Village Hall – Hall Hire for 1st March 2022 (Inv 357) - £14.00 (LGA 1972, s.133)

e. Payments to hand

i. CAPALC – Affiliation Fee for 2022/23 - £352.73 with DPO membership option/£302.73 without

RESOLVED (Prop Cllr Aldersley, 2nd Cllr Pyle, unanimous) for payment of £352.73 (inc. DPO membership) to be made, to be approved online. (LGA 1972, s.143)

f. To consider and discuss Internal Audit instruction through LGS Services for 2021/22 for £75.00

RESOLVED (Prop Cllr Aldersley, 2nd Cllr Pyle, unanimous) that LGS Services be instructed to conduct the Internal Audit for DDPC for 2021/22.

g. To consider and discuss CAPALC affiliation fee for 2022/23 - £302.73 without DPO membership and £352.73 including membership

This is a duplication of Item 10. f.

h. To discuss the Nimble platform for e-learning through CAPALC

Item to be removed from agenda, no current courses suitable for the clerk to attend.

11. To accept notices and matter for the next agenda

12. Date and time of next meeting – Tuesday 5th April 2022 at 7.30pm at Dry Drayton Village Hall

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.

13. To conduct clerk’s annual appraisal

Postponed to a later date due to the Vice-Chairman (Cllr Lander) being absent due to illness.

Meeting closed at 9.39 pm

Signed.....Chairman

Date.....

DRAFT

Appendix 1

Action Report/Ongoing Issues

5.1	Letter drafted to Lorraine Casey, Charlotte Peet & Enforcement requesting a satisfactory response in relation to complaints with planning and procedures at GCP	SCA/SL
5.2	Zoom meeting with Highways to discuss transport issues to be arranged with Cllr Aldersley, Cllr Murphy, and members of the Speed Watch team	SCA/EM
5.3	Update on road surface repairs for Pettitts Close	EM
5.4	Update on dangerous footpath between Hill View & Trinity Stables	EM
5.5	Progress on NMU	EM
5.6	SCDC survey of trees	GG
5.7	Circulate SCDC Community Chest Fund details to Cllrs following meeting with Emma Dyer	SCA
5.8	Section 106 projects from Townlands Trust	SCA
5.9	Publish litter pick date for 26th March in newsletter	SCA
5.10	Update on 2022/23 LHI application	SCA
5.11	Erection of additional poles for MVAS	SCA/SEM
5.12	Discuss with Cllr Murphy the loss of trees on the roundabout	SCA/EM
5.13	Clerk to enquire with Section 106 Officer in relation to waste bin purchase	SEM
5.14	Grass cutting – update plan and circulate for quotes/investigate responsibility of footpaths	SEM/TSH
5.15	Update on ordering of benches	SL
5.16	Village Hall Management Committee Meeting Update	EP
5.17	Update on the Pegasus consultation for a new development	DDPC
5.18	Councillor photos and bios for website	DDPC

Appendix 2

DRY DRAYTON PARISH COUNCIL
February 2022 Bank Reconciliation

	£
Lloyds current account on 31 st January 2022	£28,517.07
<u>Less</u> payments presented from 1 st February 2022 to 28 th February 2022 <i>4 online payments, 1 direct debit and 2 standing orders</i>	£902.78
<u>Plus,</u> receipts presented from 1 st February 2022 to 28 th February 2022 <i>1 receipt</i>	£11.50
Closing bank account on 28 th February 2022	£27,625.79
<u>Less outstanding payments not yet subtracted</u>	£0.00
Balance carried forward at 28th February 2022	£ 27,625.79

Notes:

Sarah Etherington-Meech

RFO

1st March 2022

Cllr Edna Murphy

MONTHLY REPORT MARCH 2022

COVID-19

Whatever the Government may say, rates of the virus in Cambridgeshire are currently still high although rates are falling. It is regrettable and short sighted that Covid tests are to be charged for and that data services will be reduced, as there is a high likelihood of another variant appearing, and in any event clinically vulnerable people will be left without protection. The local Director of Public Health is continuing to ask people to:

- Vaccinate: get COVID jabs and booster jabs when offered.
- Test: take a rapid test before meeting others, and isolate if positive. If you have symptoms, always isolate and get a PCR test.
- Protect: wear a face covering in crowded indoor spaces, keep your distance, wash hands, and meet in well-ventilated spaces.

General Covid information

<https://twitter.com/CambsCC>

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/coronavirus/coronavirus-covid-19-overview>

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/coronavirusvaccine>

FINANCES County Council passes balanced budget for 2022/23

Cambridgeshire County Council's Joint Administration has been left with a difficult challenge to improve the financial resilience of the Council, and thus its ability to withstand shocks over the highly uncertain medium term, as well as address some of its priorities. It has made savings by looking across all budgets.

On 8 February 2022 approved a budget which required an increase in council tax of 4.99%. Features of the new budget include plans to:

- Establish a 'Just Transition Fund' which will tackle inequality, improve lives, and care for the environment over the next 5 years
- Provide funding for care leavers to help them transition to adulthood
- Invest in increased biodiversity
- Improve the way in which highways maintenance is done
- Extend flood resilience schemes
- Help children catch up and with household support, particularly those on Universal Credit

In its first year, the Just Transition fund will fund schemes that:

- Increase flood prevention, continuing a recent rapid increase in gully clearing
- Help tackle climate change
- Widen opportunities for children with special educational needs and disabilities
- Increase independent living services
- Expand direct payments and individual service funds, where adults assessed as needing support can choose and manage their own care services
- Expand the 'Care Together' programme, providing care services close to where people live

When the Joint Administration took control of the council in May last year, it inherited a potential budget gap of £86M by 2027. The new leadership invited in an independent and crossparty team of local government experts in July 2021 to review the council, who highlighted this as an issue 'of significant magnitude' for the new council administration.

This is a difficult time for many people who are struggling with factors including the financial effects of the pandemic, enormous increases in energy bills, national insurance rises of over 10 per cent, and loss of universal credit. The council's business plans therefore include direct support for those most in need.

If Cambridgeshire received the same level of funding as the average county council, it would have received an extra £23M for services in 2022/23. Instead, the Government has announced that a review of local government funding expected in 2020 has been postponed for at least another year and is now not expected until 2023/4.

• This Land

One of the commitments of the Joint Administration on taking office was a thorough review of the council's development company This Land. The independent report, by Avison Young (AY), a multi-national real estate services consultancy with no prior involvement with This Land, was discussed by the council's Strategy & Resources Committee at the end of January.

The report referred to 'unusual' accounting practices, and to 'shortcomings [which] require immediate attention'. It said, 'Overall we do not consider that there is a full understanding within This Land of the level of risk exposure the business is under,' and that 'it did not seem that there was a sufficient level of familiarity and understanding of the sites during the meeting [between consultancy AY and This Land].'

AY made a number of recommendations to the council, most to be carried out within three months. The committee will receive a further report in March.

#Farmgate investigation report published

On Friday 26 February 2022 there was a meeting of the Constitution and Ethics committee which heard the results of an independent investigation into the behaviour of the former Conservative Deputy Leader of the Council. The committee had commissioned an independent investigation in the wake of the scandal surrounding a farm tenancy obtained by the Deputy Leader of the Council. Furthermore, the committee ruled that the investigation conclusions should be discussed in open session, in public.

The investigation concluded that the individual had breached the Council's Code of Conduct. There had been bullying, improper use of his position, and that he brought the Council into disrepute. Unacceptable bullying behaviour towards staff had occurred over a prolonged period. This behaviour was known and allowed to continue under the previous Conservative administration. He was found to have fallen below the standards accepted in the following ways:

- **Respect** – he failed to treat Officers and others acting on behalf of the Council with respect;
- **Bullying** – he used a bullying manner in order for the Council to pay for works that would otherwise be the responsibility of the tenant. He also used a bullying manner in order to set the terms of the lease for Manor Farm;
- **Impartiality** – he compromised Officers and others' impartiality in his dealings with regard to Manor Farm;
- **Disrepute** – his conduct towards Officers and others and his conflict of interest would have reduced the public's confidence in him being able to fulfil his role or the Council being able to discharge its functions;
- **Improper use of position** – he used his position as Deputy Leader to receive concessions that the Council would not otherwise have agreed to;
- **Interests** - he failed to register a disclosable pecuniary interest (the tenancy of Manor Farm) within 28 days and he failed to declare a non-statutory disclosable interest in meetings with regard to County Farms matters

The report was accepted in full and the Lib Dem County Council Leader, Cllr Lucy Nethsingha stated: "As Leader of Cambridgeshire County Council since May 2021 I am determined that we will root out disrespectful or bullying behaviour, whoever is responsible, and with that in mind will be asking our new Chief Executive to undertake a wider review of member - officer behaviour, and our support for council officers at all levels across the Council."

Further information can be found here:

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/news/investigation-findsformer-deputy-leader-breached-code-of-conduct>

- **ADULTS & HEALTH Integrated Care System**

Along with every other part of the country, Cambridgeshire & Peterborough is preparing for the 'Integrated Care System' which will become statutory from April. This will involve health and social care systems coming together to meet health and care needs across an area, to coordinate services, and plan in a way that improves population health and reduces inequalities.

ICs are based on Primary Care Networks, groups of GP practices serving 30,00- 50,000 people. This is a whole new way of working for the NHS and for council social care systems, with a lot of adjustments to make.

- **Staffing pressures**

COVID-19 continues to bring significant pressures to care services in the local community. Some of these challenges include

- Increased staffing costs
- Impact on staff wellbeing and mental health, with some leaving the sector
- Increased insurance
- Increased cleaning and PPE costs
- A competitive job market and challenges recruiting and retaining staff

The Adults & Health Committee has therefore agreed to invest £4.2M to ensure continued support for care providers to meet the needs of their clients.

- **CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE Young persons' mental health hubs**

All party support for a network of mental health hubs to meet the needs of young people has been approved by the County Council last month. Work is beginning on putting this into practice.

- **School admissions review**

The Children & Young People Committee has agreed to undertake a full and comprehensive review of admission arrangements for all own admission authority schools. This should include the published definitions of existing school catchment areas, and admission policies for schools with a sixth form.

- **Free school meals**

The numbers of children in Cambridgeshire eligible for free school meals has continued to increase significantly across the county. The numbers were included in a report to the Children & Young People Committee. Note the increase in South Cambridgeshire has been the most rapid increase, although the overall proportion of eligible children is least.

	Jan-18	Jan-19	Mar-20	Apr-20	Jan-21	Oct-21	Increase since Mar-20	% of children eligible
East	1,029	1,349	1,697	1,838	2,138	2,254	33%	17%
Fenland	1,978	2,438	2,926	3,160	3,631	3,863	32%	28%
Hunts	2,121	2,715	3,546	3,811	4,430	4,599	30%	19%
South	1,115	1,497	1,821	1,981	2,397	2,639	45%	11%

- **COMMUNITIES, SOCIAL MOBILITY, & INCLUSION Household Support Fund**

A reminder that the County Council's Household Support Fund is still open (to 31 March). It offers:

- Support with food, household energy and other essentials for individuals and families:
residents are eligible to access this support if they earn less than £17,940 per year, or are in receipt of certain state benefits
- Direct food vouchers: as in previous school holidays, supermarket vouchers will be issued to eligible families.

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/coronavirus/household-support-fund

The County Council is offering a one-off payment of £20 from this fund to all 39,000 people in the county who are on Universal Credit. More information at orlo.uk/97w7o

- **Cambridgeshire Skills Learner Voice Forum**

Cambridgeshire Skills are looking for past and present learners from a wide range of backgrounds willing to give their time to participate in a new Learner Voice Forum. The Forum will advise staff on a variety of issues, and will have the opportunity to work in partnership to shape the future of Cambridgeshire Skills.

The Forum will meet termly but may also be invited to get involved in projects and activities as they arise. These could include sitting on the interview panel for staff recruitment or representing Cambridgeshire Skills at networking events.

More details from 01353 613013 or cambals@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Carbon footprint

- **Cambridgeshire**

The county council's Environment & Green Investment Committee, received its latest carbon footprint report, on the carbon emissions of the County Council, and of Cambridgeshire as a whole.

2020/21 was an unusual year, so it is not surprising that the council's carbon emissions from its own sites and assets, and from its purchased electricity, were down 20% on the previous year.

Adding in indirect emissions, from the activities of the Council's contractors and suppliers, the Council's carbon emissions were down a staggering 40%. Much of that drop is likely to be temporary however. The most recent figures for Cambridgeshire as a whole are from 2019, and show a steady decline, mostly due to the decarbonisation of electricity generation.

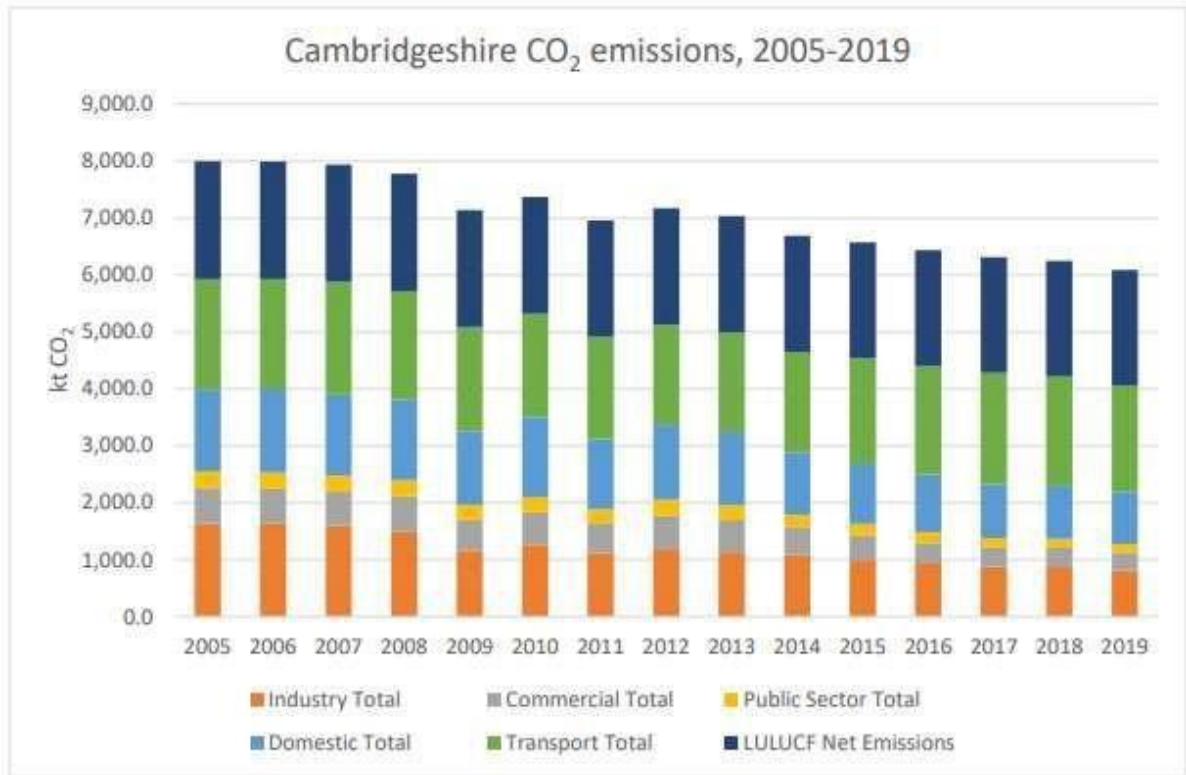
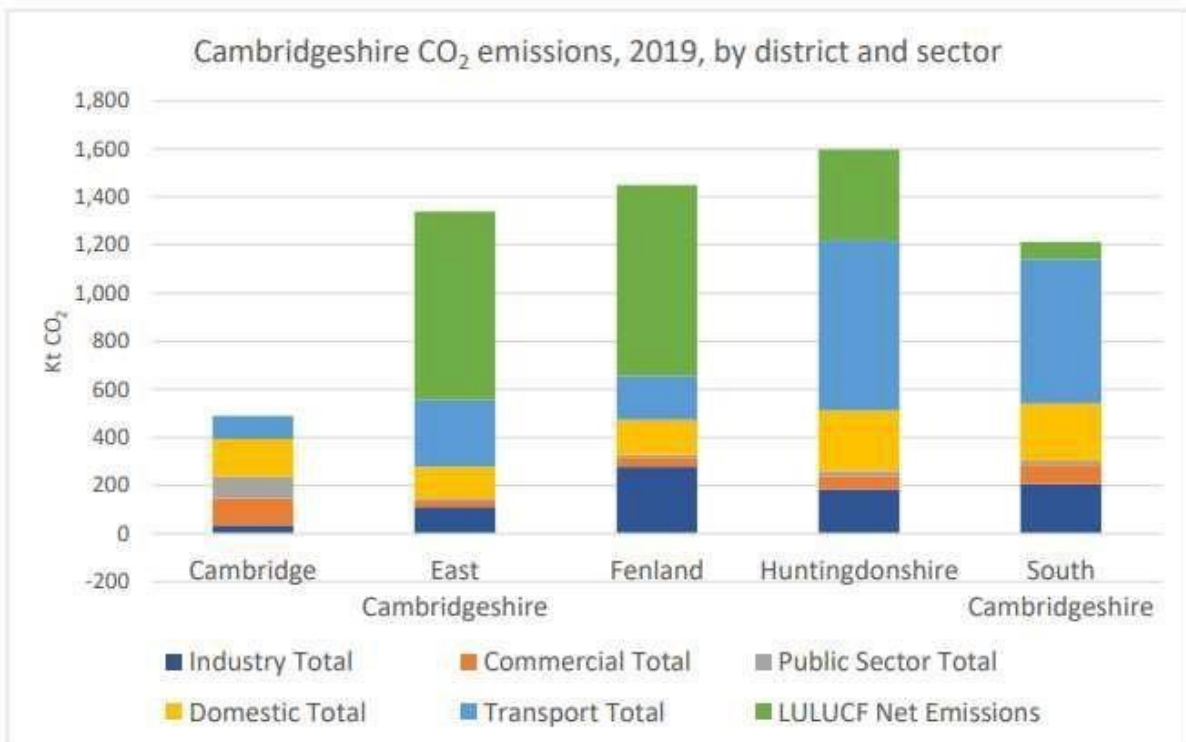


Figure 8 Cambridgeshire CO₂ emissions, 2005-2019 (data from BEIS)

The report compares carbon emissions between the Cambridgeshire districts.



It is interesting to note the differences between the different districts – in particular the role of transport in creating emissions in South Cambridgeshire.

- **Local parishes**

At the Cambridgeshire Local Council Conference a parish-level carbon emission estimator was discussed. It is not perfect but is a reasonably reliable indicator.

- **Digital connectivity strategy and the copper switch-off**

Connecting Cambridgeshire has produced a new digital connectivity strategy for Cambridgeshire & Peterborough. Councillors were particularly concerned at the lack of national government publicity about the imminent copper switch-off in 2025. Old copper networks will be phased out and start to be replaced with digital systems delivered over broadband connections.

Many homes still rely on this network. But so do a great many specialised applications such as alarm lines, payment terminals and health-monitoring equipment. Many older telephone systems, fax machines, payment terminals and alarms that do not have SIM card capability will no longer work after the 2025 deadline. There is concern that a great many people who rely on these systems have not yet been fully informed about the changes that lie ahead.

- **20MPH fund**

The council's new Joint Administration undertook to make the option of 20mph zones more widely available, and easier to obtain. The Highways & Transport Committee has agreed to set up a 20mph fund (expected to be around £400,000), and a working group to consider application criteria and priorities. Successful applications through the LHI process this year for 20mph could be supported under the new fund.

- **Petition to reinstate online council meetings**

The Association of Democratic Services Officers (ADSO) and Lawyers in Local Government (LLG) has launched a petition (link below) calling on the government to create Parliamentary time to agree a change in the law to allow councils in England to meet remotely if they wish. I have signed this as I believe online meetings enabled greater participation, transparency, and accountability, were better for the environment and safer for participants during a pandemic.

<https://www.change.org/p/uk-government-and-parliament-for-councils-in-england-to-have-the-choice-to-meet-remotely>

IN OTHER NEWS

NMU / Oakington Road – progress has been made since the last meeting.

Highway improvement and LHI process – the LHI process is going to be revamped before the next round, and potentially could be quite different if a less competitive and

more inclusive approach was adopted, enabling Parishes to be more involved in the decision making. However in the meantime some key points that emerged during this year's process:

- the speed reduction ambitions of the village fall squarely within the LHI remit
- how critical it was to engage with the County officer – particularly at an early stage (shaping the application in the first place)
- many villages that have made excellent use of the LHI over years, and it may be worth getting in touch with them to get the benefit of their experience
- many villages have a phased approach, as not all aspects of the plan can be delivered in one year, and this allows funding to be budgeted over time
- an early fix on the next application would be advisable, so that meaningful consultations can be conducted and financial planning done ahead of the next application
- the cost contribution expectations need to be clarified with the officer – whether the 10% minimum is an accurate characterisation or whether it is 10% or anything above £x would be more accurate – what are the circumstances in which the Parish is expected to contribute >10%?

It would be good for a team approach to work on the next LHI application.

Hilton bans HGVs – implications for Dry Drayton? – as Councillors will no doubt have seen in the media, the Highways department approved an application for Hilton to ban HGVs entirely. This was an extension of a night-time ban which had been in place for many years. It is not obvious on what basis the decision was made as it has been made clear that such bans are not possible. Colleagues on the Highways Committee have requested a full briefing to understand the basis for the decision and I will provide this to the Parish Council when known. Clearly this could be significant for Dry Drayton if there was a way forward on this issue.

Cllr Edna Murphy
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Appendix 4

District Councillor's Report - Cllr Tom Bygott

1st March 2022 Omicron Hospitality and Leisure Grant

This grant is aimed at businesses within the hospitality and leisure sector which were trading as registered Business Rates payers in South Cambridgeshire on 30 December 2021. These businesses could be eligible for a one-off payment up to £6,000 depending on the rateable value of each business. Businesses in hospitality, leisure and tourism accommodation sectors, who offer in-person services (like food and drink, experiences and lodging for holiday purposes).

There is also Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG) top-up payment, which is a limited, one-off fund and it is the Council's intention to make use of this by providing support to eligible businesses that do not have a rateable value and/or are ineligible to receive the Omicron Hospitality and Leisure Grant (OHLG) but nonetheless operate in the supply chain to OHLG businesses.

If you think you know someone who could benefit from this please encourage them to check if they are eligible via the Council's website at www.scambs.gov.uk/omicron-grants. Questions can be asked via BusinessGrants@scambs.gov.uk or calling 01954 713 000. The deadline to apply for both grants, previously in February, has now been extended until Friday 11 March 2022 to give local businesses more time to apply. Payments will then be made by 31 March 2022.

Five Year Land Supply

The Five Year Land Supply is a concept in the English planning system that requires local authorities to have allocated enough sites in their Local Plan to satisfy five years' worth of demand for housing. If this measure falls below five years, property developers can appeal when their schemes are rejected and have decisions overturned, leading to decisions that are even more at odds with local wishes than the policies that the Council has adopted.

At a recent planning appeal the five year land supply was challenged; the Planning Inspector found that the council does have a supply still despite discounting 978 dwellings that the council had included in its supply. The inspector found that 'the Council's housing land supply as at April 2021 was 5.6 years, a slightly improved position compared to 5.07 years at the time of the last appeal.' This is a relief but no doubt eyes will be closely peeled on the next published figures. The last few years have been something of a 'white knuckle ride' on this measure; the current problems and delays in the planning department could push this measure below five years at any time.

Civil Parking Enforcement

South Cambridgeshire is one of only a few places in the country where a local council doesn't have the powers to enforce illegal and inconsiderate parking. The District and County Councils are working together with the Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP) on a civil parking enforcement plan that would involve responsibilities for dealing with illegal parking shift from Cambridgeshire Police to Cambridgeshire County Council. This will mean drivers parking illegally, such as on double yellow lines, could be issued a ticket by Civil Enforcement Officers and ordered to pay a penalty charge.

The County Council will now prepare an application to the Secretary of State for a Special Enforcement Area, via the Department for Transport, to introduce the scheme. Subject to the approval of this application, it is expected that civil parking enforcement could begin in South Cambridgeshire in the autumn of next year. This could however be a doubled edged sword. There is a small minority of selfish and dishonest drivers who regularly park on double yellow lines (without a Blue Badge), across driveways and blocking roads so that others can't get past, knowing that the Police are busy

dealing with more serious crimes. This measure will deal with them. However we have to be vigilant that our villages don't become the high stress hothouse environments for parking that cities have become, through the introduction of excessive new restrictions.

Solar farm to power electric bin lorries

Greater Cambridge Shared Waste currently operates Cambridgeshire's first electric bin lorry, which entered service in late 2020. Two more electric bin lorries are due to begin working across South Cambridgeshire and Cambridge City by the end of March this year.

The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority has included in its budget plans for a solar farm to power electric bin lorries at the waste depot in Waterbeach. The plan includes a solar panel power plant on land adjacent to the depot, along with a battery storage system, charging islands, cabling and other associated works to form a smart micro-grid. There currently isn't enough charging capacity in the depot's local electricity network to meet the requirements of the programme to replace diesel bin lorries with electric ones.

With the massive rises in energy costs that are set to hit household budgets hard this spring, some residents have asked me why we don't cancel green energy programmes to lower prices for consumers. This is not possible because rises in the price of natural gas means that it is now significantly more expensive to generate electricity from gas than it is from renewable sources. Oil and gas markets are an extremely volatile source of economic instability and supplies are vulnerable to disruption. Having a solar farm and electric bin lorries means that if something happens again like the Fuel Crisis of 2000 or the OPEC Oil Crises that crippled Western economies in the 1970s, essential services like emptying the bins will be able to continue.

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