

Draft until signed

**Minutes of the Annual Dry Drayton Parish Meeting
Friday 8th April 2022 at 7.30pm, Dry Drayton Village Hall**

Present: Cllr S Aldersley (Chair), Cllr S Lander (Vice-Chair) (Councillor), Cllr E Pyle (Councillor), Cllr S Vale (Councillor)

Attending: S Etherington-Meech (SEM) (Clerk/RFO), Cllr T Bygott (District Councillor), Rob Lunn & Sue Carlisle (Dry Drayton Village Hall Management Committee), Les Waters (Dry Drayton Village Postmaster/Village Webpage), Chris Turner (Speed watch), Alison Arnold (Dry Drayton Primary School)

1. Welcome, introductions and apologies for absence

Cllr Aldersley opened the meeting at 7.30pm and firstly announced the sad news that Roger Hall, formerly a South Cambs District Councillor representing Dry Drayton when it was part of Bar Hill ward, passed away on 7th April 2022.

Apologies were received from Cllr E Wickham, Cllr K Cullen, Cllr E Murphy (County Councillor), and Cllr C Garvie (District Councillor).

2. Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 4th May 2021

RESOLVED that the minutes be signed as a true and accurate copy of the meeting by Cllr Aldersley.

3. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Parish Council Report

See Appendix 1

5. County Councillor Report

See Appendix 2

6. District Councillor Report

See Appendix 3 for Cllr T Bygott report

See Appendix 4 for Cllr C Garvie report

7. Local organisation/club reports

Rob Lunn presented the report for Dry Drayton Village Hall Management Committee – see Appendix 5

Chris Turner presented the report for Community Speedwatch – see Appendix 6

Cllr S Lander presented the S&VA report – see Appendix 7

Les Waters presented the Dry Drayton Village Website report – see Appendix 8

S Etherington-Meech presented the following reports:

- Allotment Report – See Appendix 8
- Townsland Trust Report – See Appendix 9
- St Peters and St Pauls Church Report – See Appendix 10
- Dry Drayton Newsletter Report – See Appendix 11

8. Parishioners' questions, suggestions, and comments

The following comment was put forward from a resident.

“It is now four years since the Parish Council agreed to part fund a non-motorised user track to connect the village to the off-road tracks provided by the A14 improvements. This link will provide the village with its first safe route connecting with the wider cycling and walking network in the South of the County. The Dry Drayton NMU track seems no nearer today than it was four years ago. Can our elected representatives please take action to find out what is happening with this important project, keep residents informed of progress and assist in any way possible to make this project happen.”

9. Closure of meeting

Cllr Aldersley closed the meeting at 8.53pm

Appendix 1

Annual Parish Meeting – Parish Council report

Having taken over the Chair of Dry Drayton Parish Council in time for last year's Annual Parish Meeting, I must say that the past 12 months have been a significant learning experience for me. We also saw the transition in May of 2021 from online meetings to ones in the Village Hall. The online meetings provided the opportunity for greater engagement from residents of Dry Drayton, something which isn't always the case for meetings in person.

We have continued to live with the presence of Covid and all that this entails. Fortunately, restrictions have now been lifted which has provided a degree of relaxation, but we have not forgotten that it is still with us. Meetings are taking place in a socially distanced environment and people are still welcome to wear masks if it is something with which they are comfortable.

Rereading the minutes from the last Annual Parish Meeting, I am struck by how the topics covered 12 months ago are still either under discussion or are similar to topics discussed at recent meetings. Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council are working together to create a joint Local Plan for the two areas (referred to as Greater Cambridge). The "Call for Sites" was a starting point for the development of the Plan (First Proposals) and identified potential areas for development. The consultation has ended, and the comments are being processed and summarised. Initial feedback would suggest that Dry Drayton has got off lightly, considering that 17 sites had been identified in the initial round.

Nothing further has been heard regarding the proposed Pegasus development on the land adjacent to the school and facing Park Street. The Parish Council has offered the agent the opportunity to present at one of our meetings, but we have not heard anything since the initial presentations some 18 months ago.

The development at Swifts Close has been a contentious issue for several years, certainly well before I joined the Parish Council. A number of applications were submitted by the developer and his agent, and the background to the many discussions has been well documented. A decision was reached by South Cambridgeshire Planning which was considered to be unsatisfactory as far as the residents and Parish Council of Dry Drayton were concerned. There is now little more which can be done, other than draw a line under the process and remember what has been learned so that we don't get caught again, should a similar situation arise in the future.

The East West Rail (EWR) proposal has been on the Parish Council's agenda for several meetings. There are the Northern and Southern routes, the former being promoted by the parishes affected by the latter. The consultation period finished on the 9 June 2021 and the feedback is being reviewed. The Southern route is the preferred option, as stated by EWR, but we cannot assume that this will be the case, particularly as there are some powerful lobbyists in the affected areas. However, irrespective of the route which is selected, there is still a question mark over the business case for the line, particularly in light of the changes to people's working patterns post-pandemic. Without doubt, freight is a major consideration for the justification of the line but this needs to be spelled out by EWR. Along with other parish councils, councillors, environmental groups and residents of South Cambridgeshire, Huntingdonshire and Central Bedfordshire, Dry Drayton Parish Council was a

signatory to a recent letter sent to the transport minister to request details of the business case for EWR.

Last May, we said goodbye to Lynda Harford who was replaced as County Councillor by Edna Murphy. I am working closely with Edna to try to bring about improvements to the infrastructure of the village and the considerable issues we are facing due to traffic levels and speeds. The Parish Council has also had the support and guidance from our District Councillors, Corinne Garvie and Tom Bygott.

The Parish Council has received a modest level of S106 monies over the years under two policies, namely public open space and indoor meeting space. There are strict guidelines as to how the monies can be spent and after plenty of discussions, it was agreed that funds be given to the Village Hall for the improvement of the ladies' toilets. Some of the funds allocated to public open spaces will be used to purchase a bench to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee along with six Green Oak Slab benches. All will come from the local company, Cambridge Restoration (www.cambridgerestoraton.co.uk). Two of the oak benches will be sited on the greens in the village, two will be in the churchyard as part of the Church Eco Award Scheme, and two will be in the Edwards Woodland. The location of the bench for the Jubilee has yet to be decided.

Permission was granted last month for the next phase of development at Northstowe which includes the construction of 4,000 homes. It looks as if access to this part of development could be from the roundabout on the Oakington side of the A14, at the junction of the A1307 and Dry Drayton Road. This is likely to bring more traffic through Dry Drayton, adding to the issues which the village currently experiences with speeding and HGVs. The Parish Council will be monitoring the situation and working with the authorities to attempt to mitigate the impact.

As I said at the beginning of this report, the past 12 months have been a significant learning experience for me. I could not have got through it without the support of my fellow councillors and our clerk, Sarah Etherington-Meech. There are spaces for seven councillors on the Dry Drayton Parish Council, but unfortunately, we shall be going forward with four vacancies. For a small parish, Dry Drayton never ceases to amaze me with the amount of work which is required of the Parish Council. It is unlikely that three of us and our clerk will be able to manage everything and so I would ask that if anyone is interested in working with us to let me or any of my colleagues know.

Stephen Aldersley

Chair, Dry Drayton Parish Council

Appendix 2

Introduction

It was a privilege to have been elected in the County Council elections in May 2021 to represent our local communities.

The elections saw the Conservative Group lose its majority on Cambridgeshire County Council. The number of councillors elected for each political group was as follows:

| | |
|-------------------|----|
| Conservatives | 28 |
| Liberal Democrats | 20 |
| Labour | 9 |
| Independents | 4 |

1 The Council

- 1.1** A new Joint Administration of Liberal Democrat, Labour and Independent councillors is now running the Council, and the three groups have signed an Agreement including a policy framework, protocols for working arrangements, and a new committee structure.
- 1.2** I am the Chair of my political group. This means I am responsible for organizing group meetings and ensuring we manage ourselves according to our standing orders.
- 1.3** I have been appointed to the Fire Authority, and was elected its Chair last summer. I am both the first woman and first non conservative to have held this position since its inception. I am proud that also elected Vice Chair was a Labour Councillor from Peterborough, who became the first member of an ethnic minority to be in a leadership position in the Fire Authority. As Chair of the Fire Authority I am a member of the Combined Authority Board, the decision making body chaired by the Mayor, along with leaders of local councils and the Police and Crime Commissioner.
- 1.4** On the County Council I am a member of the Strategy & Resources Committee, Adults & Health committee (including health scrutiny), the Pension Fund Committee and I chair the Staffing Committee which deals with senior appointments and policy.
- 1.5** The County Council's move from Shire Hall in Cambridge to Alconbury finally took place in the autumn - but not for Full Council meetings, for which the 'Multi Function Room' at Alconbury is certainly too small for meetings with COVID social distancing, and probably even when social distancing is not required. The Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2021 was held amid the war planes of the Imperial War Museum at Duxford.

1.6 The new Joint Administration has been taking stock of the Council it has inherited. We invited in a 'peer challenge' panel of expert councillors and council officers from the Local Government Association to look at the operation of the Council and advise on priorities. They did so, and came back in spring this year to update on how we were doing. We also convened an Independent Remuneration Panel, as we are required to do, to review councillor allowances. Unlike the previous administration we agreed their recommendations unaltered.

1.7 The Council's Chief Executive retired during the year, and we appointed a new Chief Executive Stephen Moir who started in post in February 2022. Unlike his predecessor, Stephen will serve Cambridgeshire County Council only, not Peterborough too. This is part of a process of disentangling many of the joint staffing structures set up by the previous administration, so that we and they can focus on Cambridgeshire priorities.

2 Strategy & Resources

2.1 The new Council inherited a budget gap of £22.2M for this year. We managed to balance the budget this time, but very significant financial challenges lie ahead. The budget gap we inherited was set to rise to £86M by 2027, and our 'peer challenge' team identified this as an issue 'of significant magnitude'.

2.2 The Council increased its portion of Council Tax in February, by 1.99% for general services, and 3% for adult social care. This was a difficult decision to take during the current cost of living crisis, but many people struggling most with increased bills and prices are those who are most likely to need council services, and likely to pay a lower council tax increase. The Conservative opposition proposed an increase of 3% instead, with no increase for general services.

2.3 The Council's budget for this year included a £14M 'Just Transition Fund' to tackle inequality, improve lives, and care for the environment.

2.4 The new Joint Administration commissioned an independent review of the Council's development company This Land. This found 'unusual' accounting practices and '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.' The review made a number of recommendations, most to be carried out within 3 months. The new Administration also reviewed the financial model for the lease of the old Shire Hall building.

2.5 The County Council's Farms estate extends to 33,000 acres - the biggest public sector rural estate in England and Wales. The new Joint Administration is keen to reposition this asset not just as a source of rental income (although that is important) but also as a major part of our environmental and climate ambitions.

3 Adults & Health

- 3.1** One of the major changes the new administration made to the Council's committee system was to combine the former Adults Committee and Health Committee into a single committee, making the most of the close relationship between health provision and adult social care. The Committee has been working hard towards the introduction of the Government's Integrated Care System across health and care providers in Cambridgeshire. We also welcomed a new Director of Public Health, Jyoti Atri.
- 3.2** The COVID pandemic has had a devastating effect in terms of loss of life, long-term health challenges, and the emotional impact on families. We certainly do not yet know the full impact on health long term for those who have had Covid. Workforce challenges in health and care are acute, as people are reassessing their careers and Brexit undermines the ability to employ staff with the right skills. The Council has worked extensively with partner agencies to support the COVID effort, though with all precautions now removed in England case numbers have surged in recent months.
- 3.3** The Joint Administration has adopted a 'health in all policies' approach. We are investing in the development of 'Care Together', with Community Catalysts supporting local social care micro-enterprises as an alternative to large agency staff models, and rolling out the Real Living Wage to social care workers. We have established increased support for unpaid carers and expanded the Direct Payment option to more people. And we have invested further in the Enhanced Response Service as an alternative to continuing reliance on over stretched A&E departments.
- 3.4** The Council has invested in public health programmes, including more NHS health checks, and local grants for community wellbeing activities. It has also started to assess the impact of government reforms on our social care responsibilities, in which it's clear there will be very significant new responsibilities and costs without new funding.
- 3.5** Work is progressing on the opportunity to build 80 flats on land at the Princess of Wales Hospital in Ely. 16 of these will be let out to Cambridgeshire Community Services NHS Trust as a hospital rehabilitation ward enabling health and social care to be further integrated.

4 Children & Young People

- 4.1** A major focus of this committee during the year was to ensure funding of vouchers over school holidays for families eligible for free school meals. This happened throughout 2021/22 and is guaranteed throughout 2022/23. The Council has also worked with local providers on to establish the Holiday Activity & Food programme for the children of families on benefits-related free school meals. The numbers of children in Cambridgeshire eligible for free school meals has continued to increase significantly across the county.
- 4.2** The Council has carried out a high-profile drive to recruit more local foster carers and ensure more children and young people in care can remain within the county.

- 4.3 The national shortage of HGV drivers means the County Council has faced challenges in both home to school transport and school catering during the year, adding still more pressure for existing staff on top of Covid.
- 4.4 A motion calling for a network of mental health hubs to meet the needs of young people received unanimous support from the Council. Work is beginning on putting this into practice.
- 4.5 A full and comprehensive review of admission arrangements for all own admission authority schools has been agreed, to include the published definitions of existing school catchment areas, and admission policies for schools with a sixth form. The Council is also proposing to commission new and additional places to meet rising demand for specialist placements for children with special educational needs.

5 COSMIC!

- 5.1 The former Communities & Partnership Committee was renamed Communities, Social Mobility & Inclusion Committee – COSMIC for short.
- 5.2 The committee has been responsible for supporting communities through COVID, making provision for refugees from Afghanistan and now Ukraine, assisting EU citizens in obtaining settled status and voting rights, as well as a range of public services from libraries to mortuaries. It runs what was the Innovate & Cultivate Fund, now Cultivate Cambs, funding community support activities. It also drew up a Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Strategy.
- 5.3 COSMIC makes decisions about the Household Support Fund, which supports people experiencing immediate financial hardship to pay for food, household energy or other essential items. The number of families struggling financially is increasing and tragically this is likely to increase rather than decrease in the next few months.
- 5.4 The committee is also responsible for developing one of the Joint Administration's major commitments - decentralisation of Council services and decision making, to bring the Council closer to communities and make it more locally accountable.

6 Environment

- 5.1 The new Environment & Green Investment Committee, chaired by Cllr Dupre, has been exceptionally busy this year, with a large number of practical projects as well as new strategies. The committee is responsible for climate change and renewable energy, strategic planning, flood and water, biodiversity, waste, antiquities, and surprisingly digital infrastructure and broadband.
- 6.2 Waste has been contentious, with unpopular commercial applications for incinerators at Wisbech and Woodhurst, very expensive odour control measures required to the Amey facility at Waterbeach, and uncertainty about the Government's intentions following several consultations on extended producer responsibility, deposit return schemes, and recycling. The Council's recycling centres at Milton and March are also in the early stages of plans for upgrades.

- 6.3** The Council's high-profile scheme to get the community of Swaffham Prior off oil and onto a new renewable energy community heating system continues to progress well, with a £3.2M Government grant awarded. Other energy schemes include the installation of solar panels on Park & Ride sites, small-scale solar farms with private wire connections to commercial customers, and replacement of gas and oil boilers in schools and in the Council's own premises around the county. We have also run another round of Solar Together, the group buying scheme for homeowners wanting to invest in solar panels and battery storage.
- 6.4** Meanwhile commercial operation Sunnica has submitted a planning application to the Secretary of State for what is believed to be the largest solar farm in the country, stretching from Red Lodge in West Suffolk to Burwell in East Cambridgeshire. The County Council is a consultee in this process.
- 6.5** The committee developed two important strategies this year - a revised Local Flood Risk Management Strategy, and an updated Climate Change & Environment Strategy. The Flood Risk strategy was accompanied by local initiatives to promote and fund community flood groups, visits by the Floodmobile to demonstrate options for fitting flood prevention measures in domestic properties, and clarification of the responsibilities of riparian owners for maintaining their watercourses. The year saw local flood and water matters require attention in all parts of Bar Hill division.
- 6.6** The Climate Change & Environment Strategy sets a new and more ambitious target for a net-zero carbon Cambridgeshire by 2045, aiming to work with businesses and communities to bring this about. We are also working on a Cambridgeshire Decarbonisation Fund and Local Area Energy Planning. Lib Dem Council Leader Lucy Nethsingha is leading plans for a 'Cambridgeshire COP' following the high-profile international COP26 climate negotiations in Glasgow.
- 6.7** As every year, the Council published its carbon footprint report. COVID meant 2020/21 was an unusual year, with not only less travel but also less construction, two of the biggest greenhouse gas contributors. The shrinkage in our carbon footprint is likely not to be sustained next year.
- 6.8** We invested an additional £109K over last winter to undertake urgent repairs to various biodiversity sites, as well as to begin a biodiversity audit of the Council's land to set a baseline for our commitment to increase biodiversity in Cambridgeshire. We have also promoted, and taken part in, the Queen's Green Canopy initiative to mark the Platinum Jubilee.
- 6.9** The County Council has responded to various strategic planning consultations including for North East Cambridge, the move of the Cambridge Waste Water Treatment Plant, and various phases of the development of Northstowe. It also adopted the revised Minerals & Waste Local Plan.

- 6.10** A new heritage website for Cambridgeshire is currently under construction. Meanwhile, a recent discovery in Fenstanton has turned out to be of international significance—a human skeleton with a nail through the foot, which experts believe to be the remains of a Roman crucifixion, probably of a slave.
- 6.11** Connecting Cambridgeshire has produced a new digital connectivity strategy for Cambridgeshire & Peterborough. We were concerned that the implications of the 2025 copper switch-off for many systems were not fully taken on board.

7 Constitution & Ethics

- 7.1** An issue dominating Cambridgeshire politics since the whistle was blown in 2018 is 'Farmgate' – in which the County Council's deputy leader Cllr Roger Hickford was awarded the tenancy of a County Council-owned farm in Girton. The new Joint Administration took office committed to publishing the facts, and this has now happened. Mr Hickford was found by independent investigators to have broken the councillors' Code of Conduct in seven different ways, including bullying and improper use of position for personal advantage. Mr Hickford resigned from the Council before the election.
- 7.2** In less contentious news, the committee proposed a new Parental Leave Policy for councillors which was adopted by the Council.
- 7.3** The committee proposed, and the Council agreed, changes to the Council's standing orders which mean that councillors will no longer be able to propose to Full Council motions that relate to current planning applications that are before the Council or that it is likely to be consulted on. This does not prevent councillors speaking out, campaigning and supporting their residents in all sorts of ways on contentious local planning applications. But the purpose was to stop councillors misusing Full Council meetings to set Council policy on applications which must be decided impartially by the Council's Planning Committee.

8 Highways & Transport

- 8.1** The new Council is facing up to the many challenges left by its outgoing administration. Not least of these was the atrocious state of the county's 100k gullies, whose lack of maintenance contributed to the flooding of winter 2020/21. These are now being mapped and cleared, including one which was in such a bad state a metal detector was required to actually find it.
- 8.2** We have established a new funding pot for local communities to bid into for 20MPH zones, to make these more widespread and easier to obtain. Also a working group will publish a proposed new policy on heavy goods vehicles in villages, which will align with the Combined Authority's forthcoming Local Transport & Connectivity Plan.
- 8.3** The Council has been focusing on Active Travel, with the aim of improving infrastructure for pedestrians, cyclists, and equestrians. A new Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan is in progress. The Council has expressed interest

in taking up the prospect of being able to enforce moving traffic offences such as breaching weight limits.

- 8.4** Local Highways Improvement bids last summer were successful for Dry Drayton, but not for Girton or Bar Hill. A new policy on LHI bids and a less burdensome process is being developed for the next round, and more funding is being set aside for LHI bids. It is a priority to improve safety and support local priorities.
- 8.5** The budget for work on the Oakington Bridge remains in the highways maintenance budget, and preparatory work assessing the requirements for flood control measures is underway. Resurfacing and gully cleansing has taken place in a number of places throughout Bar Hill division, including Girton, Dry Drayton and Bar Hill. The recent development of ramps on the Bar Hill roundabout has been investigated and the fault appears to be only with the fill material that is now settling rather than anything structural with the bridge. Milestone will do borehole investigations to assess the make up and type of material used, after which it may be possible to resin inject the area or dig and replace the backfill material.
- 8.6** Traffic in Cambridge is set to grow by 30% in the next ten years, and there is a serious lack of funding for public transport. Without this, many people who cannot drive, or cannot afford to buy, insure or fill up a car, are left with limited or no options for travel. The Greater Cambridge Partnership has been consulting for some time on ways to relieve traffic congestion in Cambridge and improve public transport into the city. These consultations are still ongoing. One of the options on the table is some form of congestion charging to pay for better public transport. Motions proposed to the County and District Councils have sought to permanently rule this out. The motion to the County Council was defeated, but these attempts to rule out any option are premature, as the consultation is still ongoing.
- 8.7** I have been challenging National Highways this year in two key areas. First to try to get them to engage with the local community in working out the future for the derelict building site in Bar Hill, and second to hold them to account for the dying trees associated with the A14 works – this is 40k saplings they planted 94% of which, in 2020, were found to have died. The Council has renewed its efforts to hold them to account, and publicity on the matter has produced promises from National Highways that they will replant fully following a survey in April 2022.

9 Combined Authority

- 9.1** A new Mayor was elected in May 2021. This resulted in the scrapping of the CAM Metro and the '£100K homes' project. A new Chief Executive was appointed, and the Combined Authority has decided to be established in offices in Huntingdon.
- 9.2** During the year, the Combined Authority's Climate Commission published its ambitious report; the Government announced there would be no more money for affordable housing, and snubbed the Combined Authority's bus improvement plan.

And finally

Please continue to get in touch if you have queries.

My contact details are: Edna.murphy@cambridgeshire.gov.uk and 01223 577005

DRAFT

Cllr Thomas Bygott

2020-21 Annual Report to Dry Drayton Parish

4th May 2021

Introduction

Thanks to everyone in the village for your support during the year. It is an honour to be your representative and, as always, I am happy to assist if you have an issue with the District Council or need some advice.

South Cambridgeshire District Council is one of several layers of local government and sits between the Parish and County levels. It covers 105 villages and the two towns of Cambourne and Northstowe. Although SCDC collects Council Tax on behalf of other local authorities, only a portion of this is collected for the District. The breakdown for the average (band D) property in Dry Drayton, following the budget meeting in February, is:

| Authority | 2020-21 band D | 2021-22 band D | Change |
|---|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------|
| Cambridgeshire County Council | £1,359.18 | £1,399.77 | +2.99% |
| South Cambs District Council | £150.31 | £155.31 | +3.33% |
| Cambridgeshire Police Commissioner | £232.65 | £247.59 | +6.42% |
| Cambridgeshire Fire Authority | £72.09 | £73.53 | +1.99% |
| Cambridgeshire And Peterborough Combined Authority | £0 | £0 | 0% |
| Dry Drayton Parish Council | £49.85 | £52.58 | +5.48% |
| TOTAL | £1,864.08 | £1,928.78 | +3.47% |

The coronavirus pandemic has made this a very unusual and difficult year, but the local community has risen to the challenge. A network of village volunteers has helped wherever needed, with more volunteers coming forward than needed to respond to requests for help. Throughout the pandemic to date, 5,804 people in the District (3.6%) have tested positive for the disease, ranking it 29th lowest in England.

We can now see light at the end of the tunnel in the form of vaccinations: as of 24th April, 33.5M people in the UK, just over half the population, had had their first dose and over 12M their second.

Local government has played a key role in administering many business support schemes to protect areas of the economy that were hard hit by the various lockdown restrictions. Since the start of the pandemic the District council has allocated £34M of grants, provided by the national UK Government, to 4,638 local businesses.

Last April there was a Small Business Grant Fund of £10K and a Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant Fund of up to £25K, depending on the business' rateable value. In June there was a discretionary grants scheme for businesses that had not been eligible for the earlier round. In November, there were Local Restrictions Support Grants (LRSG) and Additional Restrictions Support Grants (ARSG) for businesses that were forced to close their doors during last November's lockdown. In December there were Christmas Support Payments for pubs deriving less than half their income from food. Restart Grants are currently available, for which applications close on 30 June 2021: www.scams.gov.uk/business/coronavirus-information-for-businesses/financial-supportfor-business/restart-grants.

There is also a £30,000 Covid recovery grant fund to help local community groups and parish councils resume activities, for which applications close on 10th May.

There have been a few problems with businesses falling through the cracks because of distribution criteria. For example, SCDC decided that taxi drivers were only eligible for grants if they both lived and had a licence in South Cambs. Some drivers found that because they live and work in different districts, they weren't entitled to a grant anywhere. SCDC also did not offer a discount on vehicle or driver licensing fees, which can be quite substantial, regardless of whether a taxi driver had been working or not.

Environment

This is one area where my group has been working co-operatively with the current administration. I don't believe that because we're in opposition we should automatically do the opposite of what the administration does. In recent times we have supported council motions for the District to become zero carbon by 2050, to declare a Climate Emergency and to request that the pension fund divest from investment in fossil fuels. The Council has policies of being 'Green to the Core' and 'Doubling Nature' that I am also very happy to support.

Far from coming at an economic cost, I believe that zero carbon initiatives will encourage new technologies, boosting efficiency, innovation and entrepreneurship. It will also make us healthier, as diesel fumes are a major cause of cancer, heart disease and dementia. In the case of investing in oil companies it is also because of the financial risks that these investments pose for the council's staff and retirees.

The blue bin system that I helped to introduce in 2007 is also going strong and has been extended into Cambridge City. The Shared Waste Service took delivery of its first allelectric bin lorry at the start of November. The new vehicle has five battery packs storing 300kWh of energy, supplying 200kW of power to its electric motors. It is substantially quieter than existing bin collection vehicles. Fully loaded it weighs around 26 tonnes and will typically take around seven to eight hours to recharge, easily completing a full day of collection rounds and returning to the depot with charge remaining in the battery.

The Shared Waste Service has around 55 diesel collection vehicles, using around 50,000 litres of diesel a month at a cost of approximately £55,000. Electric vehicles are not only more environmentally friendly but are easier to maintain as they have fewer moving parts. Battery technology has advanced to the point where, despite the distances between our villages, electric vehicles are now suitable for this role. I hope that this is the first step towards replacing all of the Council's diesel-powered vehicles.

I am also calling for East West Rail (see below) to be fully electrified during construction.

Transport

2020 was a major milestone in the completion of the A14 project. Scheduled for completion in December, it opened to traffic on Tuesday 5 May 2020 with various other works carrying on afterwards. We also have a new A1307 local road. I have been working with our MP, Anthony Browne, on bringing forward a project to add additional slip roads at the Girton Interchange in order to reduce traffic through the village.

One slip road turns left from the northbound M11 onto the westbound A428. Another turns left from the eastbound A428 to the new roundabout on the A1307 local road, connecting to Madingley, Dry Drayton and the northbound A14. The third starts at another roundabout on the A1307 providing an on-ramp to the southbound M11. I am pleased to say that Dry Drayton Parish Council has given its support to the project, with the request of an additional route from the southbound A14 to the westbound A428.

There are several other major transport projects currently being designed. Firstly, East West Rail (EWR): a new railway line connecting Oxford and Cambridge. This is currently out to consultation until 9th June at <https://eastwestrail.co.uk/consultation>. The official routes being consulted on pass by Cambourne, with a station either north or south of that town, before heading south to join with the existing line from Royston near Harston.

Two pressure groups - the Cam Bed Rail Road (CBRR) and Cambridge Approaches (CA) - have been campaigning for a "northern route" that would pass between Dry Drayton and Madingley and then between Girton and Oakington with a station called Northstowe on the outskirts of Oakington (but far from the town of Northstowe) before entering Cambridge from the north. It is important for Dry Drayton residents to take part in the consultation, supporting one of the southern routes, lest these nimby pressure groups succeed in moving the route away from their own villages towards ours. There are important technical reasons why a northern route is unsuitable. I will continue to talk to East West Rail and the other relevant transport authorities to protect the beautiful countryside surrounding Girton, Dry Drayton and Madingley.

Secondly, the Cambridgeshire Autonomous Metro (CAM), which will be delivered by One CAM Ltd under the guidance of the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Mayor's office. Three consortia bidding to supply the system presented conceptual designs in March. CAM is expected to provide up to 90 miles of high quality, regionwide public transport, at a potential cost of about £2 billion, according to some of these designs. Destinations include St Neots, Mildenhall, Haverhill, Alconbury, Hauxton, Waterbeach and potentially Peterborough, Chatteris and Ramsey.

Lastly, the Cambourne to Cambridge Guided Busway (C2C) has been an ongoing source of argument for some time. I have made a submission and presented evidence to

an external independent audit into the planning of the project and the design of its route. The deadline for submissions was 26th April and the report is expected to be published in the not too distant future. C2C is supposed to become part of the CAM, but its route has been chosen before the CAM specification has been published or the location of the EWR station at Cambourne decided.

The current C2C route would be very environmentally destructive, 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. I would like to see several smaller car parks distributed along the route instead, and want to protect the countryside surrounding the Cambridge American Cemetery from being damaged.

Planning

Following the adoption of the Local Plan in 2018, South Cambridgeshire and Cambridge City have embarked upon the creation of the next Local Plan, combining both authorities that are now covered by the Greater Cambridge Planning Service. The first step of this process was carrying out a Call for Sites, which is a way for landowners, developers, individuals and other interested parties to suggest sites for development.

The two councils received 658 site submissions covering over 16,000 hectares of land and estimate that the sites could hold 170,000 to 200,000 houses, and around 5.8 square km of employment and other floorspace. The Call for Green Sites yielded an even larger area, nearly 29,000 hectares, including the entire Cambridge Green Belt.

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

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

Between August and October last year, the Government ran a consultation called Planning for the Future for major changes to the planning system. They are now analysing the feedback and plan to report later this year. Their ambition is to make a system that doesn't require every application to be assessed using its own unique situation, but to create form-based rules to streamline decision making. However, I believe that we need rules to prevent houses from being replaced by flats and greater protection for heritage properties before this can be done.

One example of the need to improve heritage protection is the application to demolish the Hotel Felix (www.hotelfelix.co.uk), a fine Victorian villa on Huntingdon Road in Girton, dating from 1852. The application is now available for residents to make an objection on the SCDC website at www.scams.gov.uk/planning/view-or-comment-on-

[aplanning-application](#). The reference number is 21/00953/FUL and the consultation deadline has been set to Tuesday 4th May.

Cllr Thomas Bygott

07765 475 513

cllr@bygott.net

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Appendix 4

Corinne Garvie

District Councillor of Girton, Madingley and Dry Drayton

Annual Report April 2022

1. Attended presentations on Eddington and Darwin Green new plans and asked questions, mine and those of residents and communicated the answers to the individuals concerned.
2. As District Councillor I represent the Council on the Adults and Health scrutiny meetings, for example on integrated care. For the All Autism Strategy I presented a report I had requested from the Gretton School.
3. I enabled the re-wilding group by proposing the person who could take it further to become the organiser. I invited the Dry Drayton group to attend the meeting so we can learn from each other.
4. I visited some businesses to encourage them to view the Business Support site on the South Cambs website and to sign up for the Open for Business newsletter to hear about how they can grow their businesses. This is on-going.
5. I met with the Head teacher of the Dry Drayton School to see if there was anything I could help with. We discussed funding solar panels and I need to follow this up.
6. I help with planning issues when there is a delay in planning consent and when disputed plans needed to go to the Planning Committee
7. I have reported local flooding issues, blocked drains and many potholes and tree issues in Girton to the County Council Highways reporting site. The potholes have not been repaired as yet but are on the list.
8. I have a good, therefore productive, working relationship with the County Councillor.
9. I set up a reporting system in all villages where I can disseminate more urgent information, for example in Girton I send information to the Parish Clerk who puts in on the Girton Community Facebook page
10. I attended all District Council Meetings.
11. I have, during my first year, developed networks with Council Officials and my fellow Councillors to help me to work more effectively.
12. I have over the year been meeting residents to find out if they had any concerns which I can help with.
13. My promises on getting elected were to get a Post Office for Girton and we now have a mobile post office on Fridays, and to sort out the Oakington Bridge with the County Councillor. This was one of her first projects. The parapets have now been repaired.
14. My next focus is to improve the bus service and to enlarge the 20mph zones to make villages safer for cyclists and pedestrians. I am working with the Parish Council and the County Councillor to achieve this. I am also looking at how to provide support for families who take in Ukrainian refugees.

Appendix 5

Dry Drayton Village Hall Chairman's Report 2021, April 2022

This time last year I mostly reported on a number of 'promises' of what we as the new committee wanted to achieve.

Our strategy remains the same as that when the management committee was elected in September 2020: we want to make the running of the Village Hall easier and simpler so that we might be able more easily to hand over a modern hall with modern processes when we step down.

So, back to the promises. We planned to:

- Implement an online booking system - *done*
- Streamline payments processes in line with modern practices - *done*
- A new accounts system - *done*
- Install WIFI in the Hall - *done*
- Consider the use of an electronic key system – *not yet done*
- A new role focused on Customer Care – *implemented and we're getting positive feedback from hirers on the care provided.*

So, five of six things are done. The sixth is still on the list but not the highest priority. On top of these we have started to make other improvements in the fabric of the building including installation of a Hive remote control for the heating system, and (thanks to the Parish Council), improvements to the gents toilets.

The next big task is to sort out the stage. The current stage is unsafe both structurally and electrically and we could not allow its use by a hirer. I've heard rumours that the committee want to remove it: well I can confirm that is true. But, actually our plan is to replace the old stage with a modern flexible stage more suited to today's needs.

Adrian Bennetton, our Treasurer was very successful in gaining a number of Covid-related grants during last year which means we have sufficient reserves to achieve the work on the stage (and hopefully a few other items), while aiming to balance the books operationally.

Operational costs are increasing significantly (utilities, cleaning, services, maintenance, etc.), whereas the last price increase for hirers was in 2019. We have circulated a proposal on a revised (and simpler) pricing structure to the clubs, and will be discussing their feedback at the next meeting in May. Pricing is known to be an emotive subject but one that we need to tackle sensibly and sensitively. We have previously used some grant funding to help clubs transition to the new ways of working (e.g. a number of free weeks on restarting), but remain adamant that the hall should break even operationally. Actually, the best way to achieve this is to increase occupancy – something we are working on now that things are settling down and all regular clubs are back again. Sadly, a couple of clubs have not been able to restart

due to lack of numbers, but we are pleased to report that we already have a couple of new regular dance-related clubs.

Have we got everything right – well, no. For example, we didn't apply sensitivity to a group wanting to hire the hall for a charitable event. Our new pricing structure will address this issue. We'll no doubt get other things wrong, so we need always to hear feedback from all users and potential users of the hall to ensure we minimise errors: we truly want to serve our village and community in line with our charity rules.

Finally, two things:

Firstly, my thanks to the management team: Adrian, Judith, Cinnamon, Robbie, Sue, and Daniel for all their hard work, several of whom still have full time jobs as well as fulfilling their Village Hall roles; and,

Secondly, I urge as many people as possible to come to the Village Hall AGM on Thursday 21st April to meet the committee, find out what we're planning, and discuss with us what services a modern village hall should provide. Wine (and soft drinks) and cheese will be provided!

Many thanks for your attention,

Robb

1st April 2022

Parish Meeting April 8th 2022 Community Speedwatch Report

DDPC's MVAS has been operating since December on two streetlamp posts at Oakington Road. Moved side-to-side each month. Battery exchanges every ten days are somewhat onerous. Thanks to Graham, Rebecca, Stephen and Sean for assistance.

Observe many vehicles slowing down, thank you. Though others simply ignore and accelerate through. Typical traffic through the village is 3,500 vehicles per day (counting both ways) of which 10% or more will be speeding, some at 50 mph or more.

This is less than the 5,200 per day forecast by Highways England prior to A14 redevelopment. Commuter behaviour has changed due to covid and increased WFH.

Just heard from County Highways we can start using the old black VAS posts at Scotland Farm and Scotland Road mini-roundabout. Plan to have the MVAS on each side of the road at Scotland Farm for next two months and will notify results to Police in hope of enforcement, and to Highways in support of traffic calming measures. Thereafter, suggest DDPC seeks two volunteers at Scotland Farm to help operate the MVAS when it's there, and consider purchase of a second unit for that location.

We're also awaiting two bespoke posts on Scotland Road and Oakington Road / Hill View to be installed by County Highways, but this has not progressed despite us chasing our PFHI application submitted last November. Please escalate through Council channels.

We also operate the Cambridgeshire Police Community Speedwatch when three of us stand at the roadside for an hour with a vehicle-activated sign and take note of vehicles exceeding the speed limit. We report these offenders to the Police who write to the vehicle's owner. Unfortunately, there are only a handful of volunteers for this activity so we're only able to assemble a team once a month or so. A few new volunteers would be most welcome.

The road through DD serves as Cambridge's western ringroad, being the main route for traffic to get to and from Bar Hill, Oakington etc. to the A428 at

Hardwick and places to the south and west. Traffic volumes will surely increase as Northstowe and Cambourne/Bourn Airfield etc. develop, plus potential P&R at Scotland Farm. Meanwhile the road is in a very poor state with flooding (which has been dealt with to some degree), destroyed traffic calming posts still unrepaired, numerous potholes due to subsidence and footpaths right against the road in a most dangerous state for pedestrians. Surely the road through DD is deserving of better maintenance and more speed calming measures given all the traffic and HGVs using it!

In closing, we understand that the B road through Hilton has been closed to HGVs. This can only increase the HGV traffic through DD, using our C road! Therefore, it appears obvious that a similar HGV ban should be applied here!

Chris Turner

Appendix 7

The S & VA purpose is to support both the village and our small and well-loved village school, organising events to promote social interactions between school parents and village residents. This is such an important objective, with this combination being one of the things that has made the village such a lively and unified community over the years.

The marquee team was able to be active once more, successfully erecting marquees for various organisations around Cambridge over the summer. Let us hope that this will be a more normal year, giving us the opportunity of erecting even more marquees, as this is a major source of revenue.

As we reported last year, with the uncertainty of the pandemic and the necessary restrictions a traditional Feast Week was not going to be feasible but we felt it was important to facilitate events where we could come together as a community once more, successfully curating opportunities over the summer, hence our Feast Summer.

We opened in June with Walking the Parish Bounds, followed a few days later by St Catharine's College Girls' Choir performing in the Church. Moving on to July there was an open day at Edwards Woodland on Saturday 24th with tours during the day, followed in the evening with PIMMS in the marquee, on the school field.

We held a Film Night on the Saturday of the August bank holiday weekend, with a choice of film being offered of Paddington 2 or The Princess Bride, with the former securing the village vote to be shown.

The summer season concluded with the Fun run taking place on 11th September, which worked extremely well, with a BBQ held afterwards also on the school field.

Similarly, to almost any other organisation finances are a key consideration and thankfully our strong position has allowed us to continue to support the school, helping this year with new, much needed upgraded technology for the children to use on a day-to-day basis, this alongside our longstanding commitment to the accelerated reading scheme and for the provision of library books.

We welcome new villagers to join us at any event during the year and if anyone has ideas for new events, please contact a committee member. This moment cannot pass without mentioning the need for marquee team members, who erect and take down the marquees around Cambridge during the summer, many hands make light work and what we can promise is fun and a recuperative drink afterwards.

We will be holding a celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee on Sunday 5th June, this will be on the school field, please watch the newsletter for more information.

Finally, our grateful thanks go, not only to all of those who helped to arrange and stage the events or form part of the marquee team but to everyone who came to join in and support the events over the year.

Our thanks to the entire production team involved in the newsletter who keep the village so well informed from month to month.

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Appendix 8

www.DryDrayton.net, now in its 21st year, is an independent non-commercial community website for the village. The site is updated most days and receives around 33,000 visits per year. The site has free web space for all Dry Drayton organisations, although most have yet to take this up. During the last two years the site has included information on the pandemic and related facilities at village and local authority level. This year information on local footpaths has continued to be popular. Material on local and family history, including a photo archive, has been expanded (1057 visits). The website carries the latest Dry Drayton Newsletter and past issues, giving its advertisers additional free online exposure. Users can sign up for a free village e-mail news service, used mainly to circulate items which crop up between issues of the Village Newsletter. There have been 31 such circulations in the last year to a mailing list of around 200. Information and content for the site is always welcome, likewise feedback. webmaster@drydrayton.net

Appendix 9

ALLOTMENT REPORT 2021/2022

I am pleased to report that all the allotments are being worked and we have a waiting list. Most of the allotments are tidy but there are always one or two late starters each year.

We are still having great problems with deer trampling over and eating crops, but most plot holders are now covering their crops and hoping there will not be quite so much damage.

Last summer was difficult owing to the weather and blight.

The site is clean and tidy and thanks are due to Les Waters and other plot holders who keep the entrance and paths neatly mown.

A late start again this year, owing to the weather, but we are looking forward to warmer days and bumper crops. Rhubarb is prolific and has come on early this year. The “rhubarb fairy” can be seen distributing it to village friends and neighbours!

Graham Carter

7th April 2022

Appendix 10

Townlands Trust Report to the Dry Drayton Annual Parish Meeting on Friday 8th April

The Edwards Woodland continues to provide a major benefit to the village. Although the purchase of the wood from the Edward's estate was completed in 2020, a formal open day could not be held until July this year. The wood has been in constant use by ramblers, runners and dog walkers throughout lockdown and up to today. Recent working parties have attracted good numbers of volunteers from the 31 who signed up at the open day. The trustees have not been idle during this time and a Habitat and Biodiversity Management Plan has been drawn up. Wildlife survey work which started in 2020 has been built upon informal surveys from much earlier. The community has been invited to be part of this and surveys will now be a future feature with the aim to provide a broader understanding of how any practical management work might affect the resident wildlife, as well as to record the spontaneous arrival or discovery of new species. Working parties have finished for time being but will resume in the autumn. In the interim, there will be the opportunities to join a guided summer walk if people are interested.

Work to date has included a plant survey that identified 42 species of trees and shrubs, insect surveys in which over 300 species were recorded including 21 species of butterfly (approximately one third of the entire British list). During the last year, 32 species of bird either within the wood or flying over it, 15 species of mammal including 7 bat species, probably non-resident, have also been reported. Look out for further opportunities to be part of surveys or to join working parties in the autumn and simply take the opportunity to follow the path from Park Lane across the fields towards Madingley and wander around your 14 acres of young woodland planted by Bob Edwards and family.

The current trustees would like to acknowledge with gratitude the work of all earlier trustees and in particular to recognise Les Waters and Howard Russell (immediate past chair) without whom the opportunity to hold and develop this village asset in perpetuity might not have been possible.

David Wyatt

Chair

Appendix 11

Church Report to the Dry Drayton Annual Parish Meeting on Friday 8th April

The church year in common with everyone else's in the village was dominated by lockdown. Throughout the year electronic 'Worship on Zoom' and 'Worship at Home' material was distributed and the church building, following a meticulous covid-free protocol of cleaning and chair substitution, was open for private prayer on Wednesdays and Sundays until services were resumed in person. This required frequent revisions to risk assessments as advice changed however the requirement for all to 'book into services' finally ended in May. The church building has been open every day since then.

Other meetings at the church or in the churchyard during the year although unplanned felt like mini-events. Chance encounters with friends, old and new, have reminded us of speaking and laughing together in less restricted times and encouraged us to keep going. There was no restoration work carried out on the church building during the year. Frequent comments were received about how well the churchyard looked during the year although there was the usual confusion about the rewilding project in a portion of the churchyard that has been a ten-year long project to try to encourage re-introduction of meadow flowers and improve biodiversity. This area will be augmented in the coming year through the provision of the two new benches agreed through the Parish Council. Thank you.

During the year other church-based events were restricted. There were two concerts presented by choirs of St Catharine's College, Cambridge. The first of these was performed by the Girls' Choir on St Peter's Day (June 29th) incorporated into the School & Village Association Summer Festival and the second on December 4th by the regular College Choir. In between the church hosted the Little Owls' Christmas Fair which was amazingly well attended. More recently, the church hosted a Sunday afternoon Tea and Cake Fundraiser for Ukraine as a result of which the community sent £1350 to the DEC appeal.

On the ministry front, the congregation (and school) said farewell to Canon Alison Myers as she left to take on her new role as Warden of Launde Abbey. She had served us for 12 years, the last four years also as Team Rector for the Lordsbridge Team. Canon Sue Wyatt has been appointed as Interim Lead Minister at Dry Drayton during the inter-regnum aided by Rev^d Lynda Taylor. In December, Rev^d Paul Garnell completed his curacy and left the team. 'Reverend Paul' is particularly missed for his work with our school. Whole school Zoom Assemblies were a feature of lockdown and Paul, as soon as it was permissible, was back in the school, leading assemblies and providing a pastoral presence. Steve Gardener and Sue Wyatt remain as Foundation Governors, Steve being one of the co-chairs of the governing body. The school's Annual Leaver's Service, Harvest Thanksgiving and Christingle Service were held in the church although only a small number of parents/carers and no-one from the wider DD community was able to attend. Hopefully the option to attend such services in the future can be extended more widely.

In a recent Village Newsletter, Sue reminded us that St Peter and St Paul's is there for the whole Dry Drayton community, for everyone in the parish, both for special occasions and also as a quiet space for peace and reflection.

David Wyatt

Churchwarden

Appendix 12

This time last year, the Dry Drayton Newsletter was reporting on a life that was still very locked down: the April issue was advising residents that as the pub was not yet open, it would be delivering Easter lunches to residents at home. We were also reporting on the S&VA's hopes that there might be at least some outdoor community events during the summer even if a full Feast Week of events was out of the question.

A year on, things look much better. Once again, we're reporting on the science and sporting activities taking place at the village school, advertising pub quiz nights - and sharing news that a new village book group is starting up. There has also been a recent increase in interest from advertisers, a very encouraging sign (not least because we rely on the advertising to pay the Newsletter's printing costs). We're looking forward to events like the Jubilee Picnic Lunch on Sunday 5th June and will be covering that with a story and photos. We also featured in this April's edition the extraordinary response by the village to the war in Ukraine and the fact that a simple afternoon tea in the church raised the wonderful sum of £1350 for the DEC Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal.

Our expanded Newsletter team is working well and as ever we are very grateful to all the Newsletter team, from those who regularly supply articles to those who deliver the printed copy to the houses in their street. We have worked hard to keep the publication going right through the lockdowns, carrying local news to the village, and are delighted that after two difficult years, we now have more events to report on - and fewer blank pages each month for us to scratch our heads over and wonder how to fill!

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