

Draft until signed
Minutes of Dry Drayton Parish Council (DDPC) Meeting
Tuesday 10th May 2022 at 7.30pm, at Dry Drayton Village Hall, High Street, Dry Drayton CB23 8BS

Present: Cllr S Aldersley (Chairman), Cllr T Houlihane (Vice-Chairman), Cllr E Pyle (Councillor)

Attending: Mrs S Etherington-Meech (Clerk/RFO), Cllr E Murphy (County Councillor), Cllr C Garvie (District Councillor), Cllr R Stobart (District Councillor), David Smith (co-opted at Item 9), S Carlisle (representing DDVH Management Committee), 1 member of the public

Chairman Stephen Aldersley opened the meeting and congratulated Cllr Garvie and Cllr Stobart on being elected, thanked long standing councillors for their work over the previous term and welcomed the re-elected councillors following the uncontested elections. Cllr Aldersley invited nominations for Chairman.

- 1. Election of Chairman and signing the Declaration of Acceptance of Office**
RESOLVED (Prop Cllr Pyle, 2nd Cllr Houlihane) to re-elect Cllr Aldersley as Chairman.
The Chairman signed the Acceptance of Office form.
- 2. Election of Vice-Chairman**
RESOLVED (Prop Cllr Aldersley, 2nd Cllr Pyle) to elect Cllr Houlihane as Vice-Chairman.
- 3. To confirm Parish Councillors have signed a Declaration of Acceptance of Office**
The Parish Clerk confirmed all declarations of acceptance of office have been signed by the councillors.
- 4. Return of electoral expenses**
Cllr Houlihane and Cllr Pyle confirmed they have returned their electoral expenses forms and Cllr Aldersley completed his ready for submission to South Cambs District Council.
- 5. Adoption of the Revised 2021 Local Government Association Model Code of Conduct**
RESOLVED (Prop Cllr Aldersley, 2nd Cllr Pyle, unanimous) to approve and adopt the Revised 2021 Local Government Association Model Code of Conduct.
- 6. To Accept Apologies for Absence**
No apologies received; all councillors were in attendance.
- 7. To Accept Parish Councillors Declarations of Interest for Matters on the Agenda**
No declarations of interest were declared.
- 8. To Agree to hold a Public Forum**
No items were raised by the public in the Public Forum.
- 9. To consider applications and co-option for four ordinary vacancies – David Smith**
Cllr Aldersley thanked David Smith for applying for one of the current ordinary vacancies. RESOLVED (Prop Cllr Aldersley, 2nd Cllr Pyle, unanimous) to elect David Smith as Councillor for one of the councillor vacancies for DDPC. David Smith signed his acceptance of office.
- 10. To Approve the Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 5th April 2022**
RESOLVED (Prop Cllr Pyle, 2nd Cllr Aldersley, unanimous) that the minutes of the meeting be approved and signed by the chairman as a true and accurate record.
- 11. Matters Arising from the Minutes, Report of any actions and Resolutions from last meeting – See Appendix 1**
 - 11.1 Cllr Aldersley advised that although Simon Lander is no longer a councillor, he has the background on this item and therefore has volunteered to draft a letter.
 - 11.2 Cllr Aldersley circulated an email that a resident received from planning in relation to Swifts Close, which advised that actions are being taken, although there was no indication of a timeline.
 - 11.3 This item has now been superseded by a call Cllr Aldersley has arranged with Joshua Rutherford next week to identify opportunities to improve traffic issues in the parish. Cllr Aldersley advised that a resident has re-sent concerns to him over speeding traffic in the parish which will be raised at the meeting.
 - 11.4 This has been discussed previously. Cllr Murphy advised that highways repairs are on the County Councils schedule of works. However, the technical view from Highways is that they do not believe the footpath is bad enough to require repair. Cllr Aldersley confirmed that he would also raise this at his meeting with Joshua Rutherford.

- 11.5 In relation to the NMU, Cllr Murphy wanted to advise of some good news in that a Compulsory Purchase Order is progressing for the land required for the project to connect the village by a NMU along Oakington Road to the new cycleway at the A1307. However, Cllr Murphy explained that compulsory purchase is a complex process which could take up to nine months to finalise. Cllr Pyle questioned as to whether Cambridgeshire County Council would still fund the project, Cllr Murphy assured DDPC that the funding for the project was in the approved budget. DDPC reiterated their commitment for their funding contribution to the project.
- 11.6 No feedback
- 11.7 The clerk explained that she has chased James Broder at Highways for an update on this on multiple occasions and is still without a response. ACTION - Cllr Murphy advised to contact Jon Clarke the Director of Maintenance at Highways and to copy her into any correspondence. Cllr Aldersley advised that the MVAS is at Scotland Farm at the moment and speeding has been noted.
- 11.8 Cllr Aldersley is meeting with Joshua Rutherford next Friday.
- 11.9 The clerk advised that she has still to receive an update on progress from Donald O'Shea at Highways. ACTION - Cllr Murphy requested clerk send the email again and copy her into the email.
- 11.10 Cllr Pyle found a photograph of an example lettering and DDPC requested this be forwarded to Cambridge Restoration to see if they could produce something similar. Wording of 'QUEEN ELIZABETH II PLATINUM JUBILEE 1952 – 2022'. Suggested locations for the bench were Pump Green, end of High Street and the Village Green. Les Waters is to circulate to the parish the three locations for their feedback. ACTION – Cllr Aldersley and the Clerk to source quotations for the erection of the benches and clerk to liaise with Richard Stamford in relation to whether the village green has a dispensation for erection of a bench. RESOLVED ^(Prop Cllr Aldersley, 2nd Cllr Pyle, unanimous) to instruct Cambridge Restoration to proceed with agreed lettering and to pay the remaining balance for the benches of £1,904.79.
- 11.11 Cllr Aldersley advised that he attended the AGM for Dry Drayton Village Hall (DDVH) Management Committee and believes aspects of their work and DDPC work crossover and a more holistic approach and working together more closely would be beneficial. Sue Carlisle from DDVH management committee was attending and Cllr Aldersley raised concerns over issues with the tap in the gent's toilet and the clerk noted that the locks have still not been replaced in the ladies toilets. Sue to feedback to the committee.

12. To Accept a Report from County and District Councillors

For Cllr Murphy report – see Appendix 3

For Cllr Garvie report – see Appendix 4

Cllr Stobart has just been elected so no written report was provided.

13. To Discuss Planning Matters

a. Applications received for consideration

i. **21/02882/CONDA - Land at Church Farm Buildings Park Street - Submission of details required by condition 4 (Scheme for the provision of secure, covered cycle parking) of planning permission 21/02882/FUL – For information only**

ii. **22/01582/HFUL - Studio One Park Lane Dry Drayton - Erection of a Double garage – deadline for comments 18th May 2022**

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

iii. **22/01605/HFUL - 22 Pettitts Lane Dry Drayton - Single storey front extension and roof light to front roof slope – deadline for comments 24th May 2022**

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

b. Decisions received from South Cambs District Council

i. **21/02173/FUL - Land to The North-East Of Childerley Farm Childerley Estate Childerley - Installation of a renewable energy led generating station comprising of ground-mounted solar arrays, associated electricity generation infrastructure and other ancillary infrastructure comprising of storage containers, access tracks,**

fencing, gates and CCTV together with the creation of a woodland, landscaping and biodiversity enhancements – Permission granted

14. Matters for discussion/correspondence received

14.1 For info – successful LHI application for 2022/23

Cllr Aldersley thanked Cllr Murphy for her support with the LHI application which has been successful. ACTION – Clerk to advise Highways that DDPC resolved to contribute £4,836.00 to the project on 1st February 2022.

14.2 For info – Cambridge Club Festival 10th – 12th June and Strawberries and Creem Festival 17th – 19th June

Cllr Pyle to forward contact details for the event to Les Waters for circulation.

14.3 To consider plans and produce an action plan for ‘Operation London Bridge’

Cllr Aldersley advised that this item would best be discussed by DDPC via a virtual meeting.

14.4 To consider contributing to the purchase of commemorative mugs with the S&VA for the Queens Jubilee

CAPALC advised DDPC that they would be able to contribute to the purchase of the mugs with Section 137 monies. RESOLVED ^(Prop Cllr Aldersley, 2nd Cllr Houlihane, unanimous) to make a £250.00 contribution as it was concluded that the expenditure would be appropriate, there would be direct benefit to the residents/area, and that the benefit would be commensurate.

14.5 To discuss photographs and bios of councillors and the clerk for the parish council website

Councillors agreed to provide the clerk with this information before the June meeting.

14.6 To discuss maintenance and repairs of the bus shelters

DDPC agreed that for safety the broken glass of the Oakington Road/Hill View bus shelter should be cleared up, Cllr Aldersley offered to do this. ACTION – Clerk to investigate with DDPC insurance provider as to excess and whether a claim could be made for repairs to be carried out due to vandalism.

14.7 To discuss email received in relation to planting of a memorial tree in a public area

DDPC agreed that there is very limited parish land and they do not want to set a precedent for the future, Cllr Aldersley to inform the enquirer of DDPC decision and to suggest they contact the Townlands Trust and Church as they may be able to accommodate the request.

15. Consultations

15.1 For info – Publication of the Greater Cambridge Housing Trajectory and Five-Year Housing Land Supply Report

15.2 CCC Transport Strategy - key stakeholder engagement survey – consultation open from 9th May – 19th June

Cllr Aldersley adjourned this item to the June meeting.

15.3 Waterbeach Neighbourhood Plan Adoption – 23rd March 2022

This item was just for information.

15.4 Cambridgeshire County Council Highway Maintenance Service Review -Local Highway Officers - Online Survey – deadline for comments 16th May 2022

Cllr Aldersley advised for councillors to individually complete this survey.

16. 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

i. **SCDC – 1st instalment of precept for 2022/23 - £8,625.00**

c. Payments made between 1st April 2022 to 30th April 2022

i. **Salary/Overtime/Expenses/Pension (Period 12 & 1) - £732.80**

ii. **CAPALC – 2022/23 Affiliation Fee - £352.73**

iii. **Brookfield Groundcare – Cut 1 of 10 (Inv 1301) - £360.00**

iv. **CAPALC – Clerks Bitesize Election Training - £30.00**

v. **Parish Online – Online Mapping Service - £45.00**

- vi. **Drax Energy – Streetlighting Energy (1st March 22 – 31st March 22) – 142.95**
- d. **Payments to hand**
 - i. **S Etherington-Meech – Reimbursement for APM refreshments – £37.31 - RESOLVED** (Prop Cllr Aldersley, 2nd Cllr Pyle, unanimous) for payment to be made, to be approved online
 - ii. **VisionICT – Annual website hosting and support (June 22 to May 23) – £225.76 - RESOLVED** (Prop Cllr Aldersley, 2nd Cllr Pyle, unanimous) for payment to be made, to be approved online (LGA 1972, s.142)
 - iii. **VisionICT – Annual hosted email charge (6 emails) - £108.00 - RESOLVED** (Prop Cllr Aldersley, 2nd Cllr Pyle, unanimous) for payment to be made, to be approved online (LGA 1972, s.142)
 - iv. **Brookfield Groundcare – Cut 2 of 10 - £360.00 - RESOLVED** (Prop Cllr Aldersley, 2nd Cllr Pyle, unanimous) for payment to be made, to be approved online (Public Health Act 1875, s.164)
 - v. **DDVH – Hall Hire (10th May 2022 for 2 hrs – Inv No 404) - £14.00 - RESOLVED** (Prop Cllr Aldersley, 2nd Cllr Pyle, unanimous) for payment to be made, to be approved online (LGA 1972, s.133)
- e. **To review the Year-end accounts**
The Year-end accounts were reviewed, and the councillors were satisfied with them. This enables the Annual Governance & Accountability Report to be signed off at the June meeting.
- f. **To review standing orders and variable direct debits from bank account**
Following review RESOLVED (Prop Cllr Aldersley, 2nd Cllr Pyle, unanimous) that no amendments are needed to the current standing orders and variable direct debits for staff costs, data protection registration and street lighting energy. It was discussed that the last direct debit payment for Drax Energy for the streetlighting energy was as much for one month than it has been for the whole of the previous year. ACTION – Clerk to contact Drax Energy for an explanation to the high prices rises for street lighting energy.
- g. **To review bank signatories and agree removal and adding**
RESOLVED (Prop Cllr Aldersley, 2nd Cllr Pyle, unanimous) that Cllr Aldersley and Cllr Pyle remain as signatories, Cllr Houlihan and Cllr Smith are added as signatories and all previous councillors are removed as signatories from the bank account.
- h. **Authorise due payments that arise on a regular basis**
RESOLVED (Prop Cllr Aldersley, Cllr Pyle, unanimous) to authorise due payments that arise on a regular basis including Brookfield Groundcare (Grass Cutting), Dry Drayton Village Hall (Hall Hire) and Paul Clarke (Bus Shelter Cleaning).
- i. **To review Standing Orders (and adopt amendment to Standing Order 18 – financial controls and procurement) and Financial Regulations**
RESOLVED (Prop Cllr Aldersley, 2nd Cllr Pyle, unanimous) that the Standing Orders with the amendment to Standing Order 18 be approved, and the Financial Regulations be approved with no amendments.
- j. **To review the Asset Register for 31st March 2021**
The Asset Register was noted by the councillors. It was observed that the location for the gavel and MVAS were to be updated. The Asset Register was approved with the location changes.
- k. **To make arrangements with a view to becoming eligible to exercise the General Power of Competence in the future.**
DDPC agreed that they will not be eligible to exercise the General Power of Competence within the next 4 years. The clerk is not yet CiLCA qualified and only three councillors were elected at this year's election.
- l. **To confirm insurance cover**
The council considered their insurance and confirmed that the policy was renewed in September 2021 and the cover provided is adequate.
- m. **To review DDPC and/or staff subscriptions to other bodies**
RESOLVED (Prop Cllr Aldersley, 2nd Cllr Pyle, unanimous) that all current subscriptions remain.

- n. **To review Complaints Procedure/Freedom of Information and Data Protection/Press and Media Policies**
Following review RESOLVED (Prop Cllr Aldersley, 2nd Cllr Pyle, unanimous) that all policies be approved with no amendments.
- o. **To review employment policies and procedures and to consider and adopt an Equality and Diversity Policy & Disciplinary/Grievance Policy**
RESOLVED (Prop Cllr Aldersley, 2nd Cllr Pyle, unanimous) to adopt the Equality and Diversity Policy & Disciplinary/Grievance Policy. The employment policies and procedures were adjourned by the Chairman to the next meeting for review with the public and press excluded.
- p. **To review expenditure incurred under S.137 of the Local Government Act 1972**
It was noted that during 2021/22 no expenditure was incurred under s.137 of the Local Government Act 1972. As agreed in Item 14.4 DDPC will spend S.137 monies in 2022/23 towards commemorative mugs.
- q. **To determine the time and place of ordinary meetings up to and including the next Annual Parish Council meeting**
Meeting dates were agreed by members and will remain on a Tuesday at Dry Drayton Village Hall. Dates agreed - 7th June 22, 5th July 22, 6th September 22, 4th October 22, 1st November 22, 6th December 22, 10th January 23, 7th February 23, 7th March 23, 4th April 23, 9th May 22 (Annual Parish Council Meeting)

17. To accept notices and matter for the next agenda

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

18. Date and time of next meeting – Tuesday 7th June 2022 at 7.30pm at Dry Drayton Village Hall

Meeting closed at 10pm

Signed.....Chairman

Dated.....

Appendix 1

Action Report/Ongoing Issues

11.1	Letter drafted to the Secretary of State in relation to complaints with planning and procedures for 65 Pettitts Lane	SCA/SL
11.2	Update on Swifts Close	SCA
11.3	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
11.4	Update on dangerous footpath between Hill View & Trinity Stables	EM
11.5	Progress on NMU	EM
11.6	Section 106 projects from Townlands Trust	SCA
11.7	Erection of additional poles for MVAS	SCA/SEM
11.8	Liaise with Joshua Rutherford in relation to creation of a Highways Improvement Working Group	SCA
11.9	Update on a time frame from Highways in relation to fixing of wigwags	SEM
11.10	Update on completion date for benches from Cambridge Restoration	SL
11.11	Village Hall Management Committee Meeting Update inc. completion of S106 works	EP

Appendix 2

DRY DRAYTON PARISH COUNCIL
April 2022 Bank Reconciliation

	£
Lloyds current account on 31 st March 2022	£24,919.27
<u>Less</u> payments presented from 1 st April 2022 to 30 th April 2022 <i>4 online payments, 2 direct debit and 2 standing orders</i>	£1,633.78
<u>Plus</u> , receipts presented from 1 st April 2022 to 30 th April 2022 <i>1 receipt received</i>	£8,625.00
Closing bank account on 30 th April 2022	£31,910.49
<u>Less outstanding payments not yet subtracted</u>	£0.00
Balance carried forward at 30th April 2022	£ 31,910.49

Notes:

Sarah Etherington-Meech

RFO

10th May 2022

Appendix 3

District Councillors' Report

Because of the election period, there is not so much news to report.

Covid

New data has revealed that Cambridge has the highest Covid-19 infection rate in the country. There were a total of 236 confirmed cases in the city from the week to May 1, although this is a down by a third from the previous week.

This follows on after the number of cases continues to decline steadily. This is believed to be linked with the end of free-testing on April 1.

Despite the declining cases, Cambridge still reported an infection rate of 188.7 cases per 100,000 people. This is well above the national average of 124.4.

This means that we still need to follow the advice we were given earlier to prevent infection.

Ukraine

As of 27 April, South Cambs had the highest number of visas issued under the sponsorship scheme (372) for any district in England, which is a testament to the generosity of our communities.

Zero Carbon Communities Grant scheme.

South Cambridgeshire's community groups can now bid for a share of more than £120,000 from the District Council's popular Zero Carbon Communities Grant scheme. The deadline to [apply for the latest round of grants](#) is Wednesday 1 June 2022.

This year, groups in South Cambridgeshire can apply for between £1,000 and to £15,000 from the District Council's total pot of £120,544. The process has been simplified to aid applicants, with applications invited under two categories.

The first category is for projects which reduce carbon emissions or lock up carbon in a measurable way such as low carbon, energy saving improvements to community buildings, or tree-planting initiatives.

The second category is for community engagement projects which support and encourage lower carbon living. [Read full eligibility criteria and ideas for projects.](#)

The Zero Carbon Communities fund is one of the ways the District Council is supporting South Cambridgeshire shift to a cleaner and greener future with the support of the community. Parish councils and non-profit groups or organisations that are based in the district can apply. Other groups, such as social enterprises and community interest companies can apply as part of a partnership led by a parish council or not-for-profit group. Groups can [apply to the grant scheme online](#)

Support for the homeless

Emmaus Cambridge, based in Landbeach, has been given a one-off grant of £30,000 which will allow it to employ an additional support worker to continue supporting single homeless people referred to the charity by the Council.

Appendix 4

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 Cams, 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