

Draft until signed
Minutes of the Annual Dry Drayton Parish Meeting
Friday 26th April 2024 at 7.00pm, Dry Drayton Village Hall

Present: Cllr S Aldersley (Chair), Cllr S Houlihane (Vice-Chair), Cllr E Pyle (Councillor), Cllr Smith (Councillor)

Attending: Sarah Etherington-Meech (Clerk/RFO), Cllr E Murphy (County Councillor), Cllr C Garvie (District Councillor), Rob Lunn (Dry Drayton Village Hall), Alison Arnold (Dry Drayton Primary School), David Wyatt (Townland Trust & St Peters & St Pauls Church), 2 members of the public

1. Welcome, introductions and apologies for absence

Cllr Aldersley welcomed everyone, and introductions were carried out.

Apologies of absence noted for Cllr J Granger (Parish Councillor), Cllr R Stobart (District Councillor), Neil Harris (S&VA & Townland Trust), Graham Carter (Dry Drayton Allotments), Chris Turner (Speedwatch/MVAS), Libby Peachey (Dry Drayton Village Newsletter)

2. Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held on Friday 28th April 2023

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

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

7. Local organisation/club reports

David Wyatt presented St Peters & St Pauls Church Report – see Appendix 4. In addition to his report, David Wyatt advised that there is a Foodbank in the church.

David Wyatt presented the Townland Trust Report – see Appendix 5

Robb Lunn present the Dry Drayton Village Hall Management Committee Report – see Appendix 6

Alison Arnold gave a report for Dry Drayton Primary School. Her reports included the following.

- There are now 69 pupils of a pan of 70
- The school is a happy community which is shown through the recent positive Ofsted report of good that has been received.
- The trim trail is the current main focus for improvement and Alison thanked the parish council for their support in relation to this and also for the Section 106 monies contributed towards the trim trail.
- The school have been successful in gaining grant funding of £25,000 towards the trim trail.
- An additional £11,000 has been donated from the S&VA, Dry Drayton Parish Council and through the schools own fundraising.
- The company instructed for the works for the trim trail provide bespoke recycled equipment and hope to install the equipment the first week of the summer holidays. Therefore, it can be enjoyed during the summer before going back to school in September.

The clerk read out the S&VA report - see Appendix 7

The S&VA requested support from Dry Drayton Parish Council for grant applications. Councillors present resolved that they would be happy to support any grant funding applications that the S&VA have. Cllr Garvie agreed to see what grant funding maybe available for S&VA.

The clerk read out the DryDrayton Net report – see Appendix 8

The clerk read out the Allotment Report – see Appendix 9

The Chairman read out the MVAS/Speedwatch report – see Appendix 10

8. Parishioners' questions, suggestions, and comments

There were no questions, suggestions or comments raised by parishioners.

9. Closure of meeting – 8.10pm

Appendix 1

Annual Parish Meeting 2024 – Parish Council Report

Some of the issues which were reported at last year's Annual Parish Meeting still feature on the agendas of the Parish Council meetings. The main issues which are reported on a regular basis are the two Non-Motorised User Access routes, and the proposed travel hub at Scotland Farm. Whilst East-West Rail does not feature on the agenda on a regular basis, we should be mindful of its possible impact on the Scotland Farm part of the village.

Non-Motorised User Access (NMU) along Oakington Road

The following is taken from my report of 2023.

At last year's meeting, a resident stated:

“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?”

I am sorry to say that 12 months on, the NMU seems further away from completion than it was this time last year. Even though residents and the Parish Council were assured that funding was assured, this has proved not to be the case as National Highways has withdrawn funding for this and similar projects. In addition, the land required for the NMU will be the subject of a Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO), and that which is in the ownership of National Highways has to be transferred to Cambridge County Council before the CPO can progress.

We are still no nearer to a resolution of the situation between Cambridge County Council and National Highways, although I am pleased to be able to report that our MP, Anthony Browne, has become involved after approaches from residents of the village, including the Chair of the Parish Council. This has resulted in a dialogue between the relevant parties but no progress, at least not at the time of writing this report.

I sincerely hope that the 2025 report will be able to record that work has started on this NMU, although I fear that the status quo will be maintained for a while.

Non-Motorised User Access (NMU) from the village centre to Scotland Farm Travel Hub

As has been mentioned previously, an NMU to link the village to the proposed Scotland Road Travel Hub had been included in earlier proposals, but this is now no longer the case. As with Oakington Road, it is imperative that there is a safe route for pedestrians and cyclists to be able to get to the travel hub from the village. A visit was made to the site by a representative of Cambridgeshire County Council, and we are awaiting her recommendations, which are now several months overdue from the original date which was promised.

Local Highways Improvement (LHI) Applications

The Parish Council was successful in its application in 2023 for 40mph buffer zones at the approaches to the village, including Scotland Farm, and weight restriction signage. The County Council is keen to start the work and it is hoped that the restrictions will reduce the excessive speeds of vehicles through the village and reduce the number of HGVs. Time will tell.

An application was made for a village-wide 20mph limit. Unfortunately, this application was unsuccessful, but will be updated and resubmitted later in the year.

Neighbourhood Plan

There has been a lot of discussion over the past 12 months about a neighbourhood plan for Dry Drayton. Such a plan would help identify the requirements of the village and could help to control planning decisions. Further, a neighbourhood plan would mean that the residents of the village have an input into decisions which affect us, and it would provide guidance to both the Parish Council and Planning on decisions.

Unfortunately, the work involved in developing a plan can take several years to complete and the Parish Council cannot do this work alone. Requests for volunteers to assist have not been successful and so we have decided not to progress a neighbourhood plan at this stage. However, if anyone is interested in getting involved, please could you speak with Cllr. Granger.

My thanks

I would like to thank our County Councillor, Cllr. Murphy, and our District Councillors, Cllr. Garvie and Cllr. Stobart, for the support and guidance they have provided to the Parish Council. I would also like to thank our clerk, Sarah Etherington-Meech for her support, advice and guidance over the past 12 months.

Finally...

As has been mentioned on various occasions, there are still two vacancies for councillors on the Parish Council. If anyone is at all interested in joining us and helping to determine the future of Dry Drayton, please let me or our clerk, Sarah, know.

Cllr. Stephen Aldersley
Chairman, Dry Drayton Parish Council

Appendix 2

Introduction

The composition of the County Council has changed significantly since my last report. Three councillors have left the Conservative Group and now sit as ‘unaligned’ members. Another has left and joined the Independent group that is part of the Joint Administration running the Council. And a recent County Council by- election in Yaxley saw the seat change from Conservative to Liberal Democrat.

The table below shows the current composition of the Council compared to the latest election results in May 2021. The Conservatives are not the largest group on the Council—for the first time ever.

	2021	2024
Conservatives	28	22
Liberal Democrats	20	23
Labour	9	9
Independents	4	4
Unaligned independents	0	3

The Council

The Joint Administration of Liberal Democrat, Labour and Independent councillors continues to run the

Council. I am on the following committees: Adults & Health, Strategy Resources & Performance, Staffing & Appeals (Chair). I am also the Chair of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fire Authority, which is run by councillors from Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. I attend the Combined Authority, as Chair of the Fire Authority.

Strategy Resources & Performance

The Council set a balanced budget in February 2024, for 2024-25, although this is becoming increasingly difficult for councils of all political affiliations across the country. An increasing number of local authorities are issuing ‘Section 114’ notices—the nearest council equivalent to bankruptcy. There have been a number of polls of county councils and they show a very serious situation. The next 18-24 months in local government could see many authorities issuing Section 114 notices.

The Council increased its portion of council tax by 4.99 % in total—2.99 % for general services, and 2% for adult social care. The increase in need for social care, and children’s social care in particular, is causing pressure on council budgets.

Following a request from three of its committees, Full Council agreed an increase in funding for Emergency Planning, in view of the frequency and severity of extreme weather leading to flooding. The budget also includes record levels of highways funding to strengthen and improve the standard of roads and pavements, including tackling potholes, weeds and gullies, in response to residents' concerns.

However, without the long-promised, but not delivered, multi year fair funding settlement from Government, future budgets will continue to be a struggle.

Adults & Health

In recent years the availability of NHS dental care has shriveled to almost zero. Dentists say that under the current contract, it is no longer financially viable to offer NHS procedures because of a lack of Government investment. One in five people have resorted to 'DIY dentistry' and 4.4 million children in England have not seen an NHS dentist in at least a year, leading to a 17 % increase in tooth decay- related extractions in children.

Cambridgeshire NHS has put in place a local Dental Improvement Plan, and identified the areas of the county most in need as being Fenland, Littleport, Ely, and Peterborough. Following problems with primary care in relation to Sutton's GP service, the county's Committee discussed the issues arising in June. NHS Cambridgeshire also carried out a post-action review.

The vulnerability of the entire NHS system was very evident, mostly due to workforce constraints including shortages and emigration. The *Washington Post* had recently led with the headline *How the UK became a terrible place to be a doctor*. Of the 88 GP practices in Cambridgeshire, thirteen were rated red in terms of vulnerability, and only fifteen or sixteen rated green. It was observed that this left a large number of practices in the amber category.

Assets & Procurement

Shire Hall in Cambridge is to be re- marketed after original preferred bidder Brookgate pulled out. The committee has approved a new Land & Property Strategy to guide the management of its diverse portfolio.

Children & Young People

A new initiative aimed at nurturing and developing social care skills in Cambridgeshire has been launched by the County Council.

Cambridgeshire Academy for Reaching Excellence (CARE) is a new Social Care Academy which aims to improve outcomes for children and young people through support and training being offered for social work students and apprentices, international practitioners, experienced social workers and those in leadership positions. It comes at a time when across the country local authorities are facing a shortage of social workers. More information at www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/care

The Holiday Activities & Food programme has continued over each of the school holidays. Ensuring children have access to food over the holidays has been a priority for the Joint Administration on the council. More information from: www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/council/communities/support-with-the-cost-of-living/holidayactivities-and-food-programme

COSMIC

COSMIC (Communities, Social Mobility & Inclusion Committee) has continued to oversee the Household Support Fund, which supports people experiencing immediate financial hardship to pay for essential items. An increasing number of families are struggling financially at the moment. The Government announced after councils had set their budgets that it would continue to fund the Household Support Fund for six more months, so the council will continue to issue supermarket vouchers to eligible families at the current rate for the next six months.

The Council ran a quality of life survey in August 2023, with a sample of 5,500 people asked about their views on a range of issues. While most Cambridgeshire residents felt happy and safe, over half of 1824s felt lonely with 61 % of them struggling with their mental health. A significant proportion have been affected by the cost of living crisis and financial pressures are widely felt.

The committee has been overseeing a Cambridgeshire Priorities Capital Fund. This consists of £1M left over from the previous administration's £5M Communities Capital Fund. The fund was opened to a single round of one-off applications, and was heavily over-subscribed.

Environment

An exceptionally wet winter left the ground saturated from mid- December onwards. Storms Babet through Henk compounded the problem, leaving many areas with flooding issues and further road degradation.

The Council continues to decarbonise its own buildings, winning grant funding for installation at a further nine council premises. Cambridgeshire was ranked fifth out of all county councils by Climate Action UK for our climate change work, including a gold star for decarbonising buildings and heating.

The council is in the process of installing solar car ports at Babraham and St Ives Park & Rides. Energy from these will power EV chargers, including some specially designed for people with disabilities, as well as providing energy to commercial customers by private wire.

The application for an incinerator at Wisbech was granted by the Government minister, despite local opposition, but is now held up by another minister's review of licensing of incinerators nationally. Fenland District Council is seeking a judicial review of the decision.

The council's planning committee refused an application by Envar at Woodhurst for new incineration facilities. Envar have appealed, and an inquiry has concluded with a decision expected before summer.

Local Nature Recovery Strategies are now being prepared across the country. The Combined Authority is responsible for the one for Cambridgeshire, and has contracted this to the County Council together with Natural Cambridgeshire. Parishes are engaged in this activity too, with many leading ambitious local activities.

Cambridgeshire will join most other councils in introducing weekly food waste collections by 2026.

Swaffham Prior community heat project won the prestigious national Edie Net Zero Award for

Renewable Energy Project of the Year and is currently in the running for an international award. By November, 65 homes in Swaffham Prior, including 23 Sanctuary properties, were fully connected to the new energy centre.

The Government's decision on the application by Sunnica for a large solar farm between Burwell and Red Lodge has been delayed several times—most recently until early April. The Chair of the County Council's Environment & Green Investment Committee wrote to Michael Gove to draw to his attention the poor level engagement by the applicant with local communities.

The Council once again hosted a Solar Together programme in Cambridgeshire. Organised and run by independent company iChoosr, this has previously worked well. However, in this round there were problems with one of the suppliers operating in Huntingdonshire. Cambridgeshire and other councils have been working with iChoosr to seek to address the causes of this before deciding whether to run further rounds of the programme.

Cambridgeshire has been awarded £11.5M over two years to improve energy in homes which are not on mains gas, including offers being made to some residents in Little Downham. More information at actiononenergycambs.org/funding

The annual carbon footprint report showed the County Council's own carbon emissions at 46 % lower in 2022/23 compared to four years earlier. 60 % of these emissions is from waste. Total greenhouse gas emissions for Cambridgeshire as a whole in 2021 were 6.8 million tonnes CO₂e, with transport being the highest emitting sector. There has been a 25 % reduction in greenhouse gas emissions in Cambridgeshire between 2005 and 2021. East Cambridgeshire produced the highest volume of greenhouse gas emissions per person in the county, mostly from land use and agriculture, unsurprising in an important food-growing area.

Fens 2100+ is a new programme launched in 2023 to enable the Fens to adapt to the challenges of climate change now and into the future. It is a partnership project between the Environment Agency, Association of Drainage Authorities, Internal Drainage Boards, National Farmers Union, and Anglian Northern and Great Ouse Regional Flood & Coastal Committees. Its aim is to develop a Fens-wide flood resilience investment strategy, and develop a strategic case for continued investment in flood risk management across the Fens. The project will set out the investment choices needed so that Flood Risk Management Authorities can plan for the next 25 years and the Fens can flourish and adapt to climate change. Over the next 100 years, an additional £4.5 billion will be needed to manage flood risk in the Fens— based on today's costs and not accounting for climate change. Under current flood risk management funding rules half of that investment would be funded, the rest is not. The Fens 2100+ programme has been developed to address that gap. The Council has also updated its policy and protocol for enforcement under the Land Drainage Act 1991.

An estimated 10,000 public EV charge points will be needed across Cambridgeshire by 2030. With fewer than 500 currently installed, this is a huge challenge. A small-scale pilot project to trial on-street connections is due to begin shortly.

Gigabit-capable broadband coverage in Cambridgeshire & Peterborough has hit 85 % a year early, meaning we are above the national average and ahead of Government targets, although there is still work to do to improve.

Highways & Transport

The condition of our roads and pavements is still a huge challenge, in Cambridgeshire as it is nationwide—a mixture of inadequate Government funding, decades of neglect, extreme weather, and in some cases poor standards of repair. The Council has received some additional funding for pothole repairs which it has been using on new technology, and more crews on the ground, but it is far from adequate to do more than fix the worst aspects.

156 roads in Cambridgeshire have been identified as failing because of their soil base, and the effects of more and heavier vehicles, historic neglect, and extreme weather. Many of these are in East Cambridge, and Little Downham and Pymoor in particular. A plan for short and medium term actions has been agreed, but longer term the focus needs to be on securing funding.

The Committee reviewed its policy on weed removal, following residents' and councillors' concerns, and will resume cyclical spraying except where residents agree to manage weeds manually.

The replanting of trees along the A14, using award-winning fully biodegradable tree guards, has continued over the winter. National Highways is reported to have committed £2.9m to the first 160,000 trees which represents a more thoughtful and less 'scattergun' approach. It is hoped that this new approach to planting will work and that we will have the contribution to biodiversity that was so critical in the initial planning of the A14.

The Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP) proposals for a 'Sustainable Travel Zone' with a congestion charge were abandoned as they clearly had insufficient public or political support.

Meanwhile however the Government is progressing its plans for what it is calling Cambridge 2040, a huge intensification of development in and around Cambridge run by yet another layer of local government—an unelected organisation called the Cambridge Delivery Group. There are existing challenges to the carefully-thought out development proposals already put in place by the local councils in Greater Cambridge. The Environment Agency is objecting to some key developments on grounds of lack of water. The Government is proposing to get around this by introducing a system of 'water credits' and water offsetting. These seem to be a distraction, avoiding solving the actual problem.

The Government's proposals for 150,000+ more houses in and around Cambridge will certainly need sustainable transport solutions if the city is not to become congested beyond capacity. Whether we will see the funding needed for all the transport options - rail, trams, light rail, bus and better cycling provision - remains to be seen.

Parish meetings with highways officers: these meetings are happening fairly regularly now. Local Highways Officer and other members of the County's Highways team attend a session with Clerks of the four parishes in Bar Hill Division (Lolworth, Girton, Bar Hill and Dry Drayton) as well as other parish councillors who wish to attend. There the issues and concerns of residents are raised and the County's team provide feedback, explanation, or other updates on progress. There are starting to be results from these sessions, and from the reorganization of the County's highways functions.

Combined Authority

The Combined Authority has been implementing an improvement programme following the issuing of a Best Value Notice in January 2023. The Notice has been revised and recognises the significant progress made since then, but also that some elements need further work.

The Mayor increased his precept on the Council Tax, from £1 a month at Band D to £3 a month, specifically for new or improved bus services. However, no sooner had these proposals been agreed than Stagecoach announced huge cuts which the Combined Authority has been working through.

Please contact me with queries or concerns: Edna.Murphy@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

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Appendix 3

South Cambridgeshire District Council

Report to Dry Drayton Annual Parish Meeting 2024

As Councillors it's been our pleasure to work with the Parish Council and residents over this last year. This report gives us the opportunity to report the work of the South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC), and to also reflect on matters that touch on village life and the work of the Parish Council.

Over the time we have got to know Dry Drayton we have come to appreciate the diversity and needs of the village. Transport, tendency to flood, roads, cycleways, footpaths, links to neighbouring communities, trees, lighting and the Neighbourhood Plan have all been covered at some point in our discussions. We look forward to continuing to work with the Parish Council and residents to make the village a great place to live and to give it the character and amenities that you all need.

2024/25 Budget

In February, SCDC approved the budget for the 2024/25 financial year which included a whole range of ways we're investing in improving the lives of residents.

South Cambridgeshire District Council is in a strong financial position – something increasingly rare amongst local authorities, many of whom have faced stinging budget cuts or bankruptcy this year (and many more who will face bankruptcy over the next twelve months).

Rather than making short-term, politically easy choices like freezing Council Tax, we gave thought to the long-term wellbeing of South Cambridgeshire's residents, making sure we are in a position to continue to fund services in the long term. Because of recent and high inflation, real-terms Council funds are shrinking faster and traditional funding methods for council funding simply aren't keep up.

SCDC has made sensible financial investments over the past six years and consequently brings in £7 million in investment income. Without these investments, SCDC wouldn't be in a position to maintain historic levels of service we do and wouldn't be in a robust financial position.

Council Tax and Council Tax Support

SCDC's increase in Council Tax represents an extra 42p per month for a band D household. This increase is below inflation which has been at record levels and is currently 4.1%. For SCDC this is a real terms budget cut.

We are increasing the thresholds for support offered under the Council Tax Support Scheme in line with inflation, making sure people currently able to claim don't lose out.

This scheme means that the poorest in our communities get up to 100% relief on their council tax bills. Across Cambridgeshire, SCDC, Huntingdonshire and Cambridge City offer up to 100% relief whereas East Cambs offers only up to 91.5%, Fenland 80% and Peterborough 70%.

2024/25 Business Plan

In February, SCDC also agreed the 2024/25 Business Plan. Our work for the next financial year will continue to be focussed on SCDC's four priority areas: (1) Growing Local Businesses and Economies, (2) Delivering Truly Affordable Housing, (3) Being Green to Our Core, and (4) Being a Modern and Caring Council. We'll take a quick look at these priority areas in turn.

Growing Local Businesses and Economies

Our work helping businesses (specifically SMEs) grow will help local communities thrive, bringing jobs and opportunities into our villages. Access to high quality jobs is essential to make sure everyone can live their life how they want to. Helping local businesses transition to net-zero means they will be more resilient to the impact of climate change and help the district at large in its efforts to be more sustainable. Our work to support local high streets and markets will directly benefit communities and will help residents shop locally and help them support local businesses. We remain interested to provide this same level of support for small businesses that conduct their work substantially on-line and possibly from the proprietor's home.

Truly Affordable Housing

Our work as a council is to ensure that housing is accessible for all whether foremployment, business or family connections or simply the wish to live in the district. . We recognise that everyone deserves a high-quality, safe, and affordable place to live and therefore our plans are ambitious. We will make sure that SCDC continues to be a leader in the delivery of good quality homes in communities that exemplify good-quality living.

SCDC has a proven track record of delivery - providing more and more affordable housing since 2018 and on a par with the housing advances being made in the City.

There have been over 1,000 housing completions every year in South Cambs since 2018, rising to 1,500 completions in 2022/23. Each year (except for a slight dip in 2020 - due to COVID) we have increased the number of affordable homes being built in the district. Since 2018, the amount of market-rate housing built has consistently been double that of the City for the entire duration we've been in power in South Cambridgeshire. In 2022/23 we oversaw 1500 completions (472 of those affordable).

SCDC recognises that giving people access to affordable homes is one of the best ways to tackle the structural inequalities we face and to give people the agency to make decisions in their lives.

We are working to ensure housing across the district is built to the highest possible standards of energy efficiency and are working to raise the standards of existing housing up to scratch. This will help our residents who are facing rising energy costs and the increasing uncertainties in our climate.

Green to Our Core

Climate change is the single biggest issues facing all communities. This is not some far away problem we can ignore and bury our head in the sand, it is affecting the District. Our water scarcity crisis, air quality problems, extreme weather, flooding, and heat waves are all direct consequences of the climate crisis. That being green to our core is a lynchpin of all the work we do as a Council demonstrates how serious, we are about tackling climate change and mitigating its effects.

Our work on 20% biodiversity net gain has pre-empted and gone further than Government goals and our contributions to the upcoming Local Area Energy Plan will help Cambridgeshire set out how we will reach net zero.

We are continuing to actively engage with Government, the water industry, Cambridge City and other partners to find solutions the water scarcity crisis we are facing.

Our Waterbeach Renewable Energy Network Project will help reduce the Council's carbon emissions and is a landmark project being watched by other authorities up and down the country.

Over the coming year we will continue to improve the energy performance of our commercial buildings and other assets owned by the council, following on from the Greening of South Cambs Hall.

Alongside this we are, through the Zero Carbon Communities Scheme, EV Charging Point Scheme and other community engagement programmes, helping local communities take steps

on the path to reducing emissions, ensuring they can be resilient to the effects of climate change and that all residents are able to benefit from the transition to net zero.

We are giving more staff support for the Zero Carbon Communities Fund. Over the past 4 years we have awarded £500k in support of projects to help local communities. This year £125,000 will be available through the scheme.

Through schemes such as repair cafés, food waste redistribution schemes and cooperation with other authorities across the county, we are helping reduce household waste and encouraging recycling and taking steps towards the circular economy.

SCDC has this year employed two new Environmental Enforcement Officers. These roles are in place specifically to address the issue of fly tipping – so that the council can more effectively prosecute fly tippers. Also included in the budget is more support for the cleaning team, so that incidents of fly tipping can be addressed more quickly. The capital budget also includes funding for a new vehicle for these officers, an essential part of the resources they need to do their jobs effectively. Fly tipping is a blight on the countryside and as a rural area, SCDC is particularly vulnerable. This proposal amounts to a significant investment into our ability to combat fly tipping and to make sure offenders are brought to justice.

We are creating two new posts, bringing in house our litter picking along highways rather than contracting it out. This will save the Council approx. £25k a year - giving us a more reliable and cost-efficient service.

Modern and Caring Council

The council is undergoing significant transformation work. Our transformation work, unlike in other councils, is not just about saving money but is about finding ways of improving our services for residents and using the resources we have efficiently and effectively. We are making more and more of our services available online and are updating our website to make them more easily accessible to residents. Our commercial investments are successfully bringing increasing income to the Council and we're working to tackle income tax and business rates fraud.

We are making sure we provide tenants with safe and secure homes – undertaking all landlord safety checks and provided targeted health and wellbeing support for vulnerable residents. Part of this is making sure our staff have the training to respond appropriately to safeguarding issues. Further we are working to do all we can to support asylum seekers and refugees, including those from Ukraine, who are settled across the district.

The council is going to spend £897,000 on support for Ukrainian guests, funded by central government. How this money gets spent and what exact support we provide is up to SCDC. We have broad discretion to allocate funds.

SCDC supports one of the largest populations of Ukrainian guests of any district council and is looking at other councils work to see where things have been successful or less so, and making sure the support we provide is as effective as possible. The Landlord Incentive Scheme is modelled on the one from Bristol City Council for example.

There are various support schemes available such as funding for host families, employment support, and small grants fundings for activities to help integrate guests– some examples from 2023 include:

- £300 to fund sports activities for guests in Sawston,
- £300 for art therapy sessions,
- £300 to Cottenham to fund Christmas events for Ukrainian families.

We also provide support for guests moving on from hosts into independent accommodation via our landlord incentive scheme which aims to help make renting more affordable for Ukrainian guests.

SCDC working to develop new neighbourhood plans so that local communities can take a leading role in determining their future development. We're working to support "Cambourne 25" so that stakeholders across Cambourne can work together to resolve legacy issues across the town. In Northstowe, this next year we will break ground building the permanent Community Centre and we are advancing our plans for a Civic Hub and the Phase 2 Sports Pavilion.

On a cross-party basis, we passed a motion meaning the Council will treat care experience as though it is a protected characteristic. The Council also agreed on a cross-party basis to work towards White Ribbon accreditation, a charity that seeks to tackle domestic abuse and gender-based violence.

Cambridge 2050

Michael Gove announced plans for 'Cambridge 2040' in July 2023. Since then, we have had little clarity from the government. The figure of 250,000 homes has been revised down to 150,000 homes and 2040 has been pushed back to 2050.

In March 2024 a 'growth corporation' was announced, which will direct a lot of the initial work. We had hoped that as the local planning authority we would have a seat on the board of this to try and direct the new development. Unfortunately, local authorities will only sit on an advisory council alongside businesses and industry partners, meaning we won't have a vote or decision-making powers. There is a lot we still don't know about Cambridge 2050, and we (as your District Councillors will keep Parish Councils informed as we learn more. As an administration

we have been clear about the importance of having local voices involved in local planning decisions, as well as the need for new transport, new schools and new health services. We've also been firm on the issue of the environment and water scarcity. This is why we have seen movement from the government to help us unlock developments such as at Bourn Airfield, Waterbeach and the Cancer Research Hospital. This has been a good first few steps but significantly more work on water scarcity will be needed to realise the scale of growth within our own local plan let alone those coming from central government.

Four-Day Week Trial

The Council has been trialling a four-day week for “desk-based” staff since January 2023. This included an initial three-month trial and in May 2023. Following independent assessment of performance data, Cabinet extended the trial by 12 months, meaning the trial period ended March 2024. Separately, a three-month trial for waste crews was approved in May 2023. This followed the initial desk-based trial due to the complexities of reorganising bin collection rounds for around 128,000 households across Greater Cambridge.

Under a four-day week, officers are expected to carry out 100% of their work, in 80% of the time, for 100% of the pay. The Council undertook the trials because of the acute recruitment and retention issues it was facing, which is amplified in Greater Cambridge due to the high cost of housing and living. Similar trials are taking place across the UK, Ireland, and US, as outlined by the 4 Day Week Global Campaign, notably both the Scottish and Welsh Governments are considering such trials.

During the trials, the Council has spent £434,000 less on agency staff covering roles that were previously identified as hard to fill. Initial results suggest there has been no statistically significant negative impact on services but rather in some areas, the Council's services have improved. Further, health and wellbeing surveys of council staff show there has been a significant positive impact on both mental and physical health.

In November 2023, the government issued a 'best value notice' to the council, stating its opposition to the four-day week. This notice asked the council to submit significant amounts of data to the government.

In December 2023, the Government published a four-week consultation on the Local Government Finance Settlement, setting expectations around local authority funding in future years. The Government reiterated that they do not support a four-day week for local authorities and asked for views about the use of financial levers in future settlements to disincentivise the practice. The results of this consultation were overwhelmingly against the imposition of financial levers although the government appear to be ignoring this result.

The Council had expected, subject to data showing performance had been maintained or improved and a member decision, to consult on a four-day week shortly after the end of the formal trial. We cannot do that until the government tells us what financial levers it would use, as we would not be able to explain the full financial impact on the Council. Whilst we wait for the government to tell us what they will do so we can consult, staff are continuing to use a four-day working pattern.

Once a consultation has been carried out, and once all the evidence has been independently analysed, councillors will at full council decide whether or not to keep the four-day week permanently. This decision will be based on the evidence put before councillors and has not already been made.

[A Concluding Comment](#)

A report of this nature can only be a brief summary of the extensive business of SCDC. If you'd like more detail on any of the topics we've presented, please let one of us know and we'll be happy to do some investigations. In the recent Peer Review conducted at SCDC, there was discussion around the quality of relationships between SCDC and Parish Councils. The Parish Forum, and regular updates from SCDC for Parish Councils Clerks, we believe are helping, but we would like to hear from you about any other form of assistance you would value to support your work, as Councillors and as residents in the Parish.

Corinne Garvie, crr.garvie@scambs.gov.uk, 07780 932267

Richard Stobart, crr.stobart@scambs.gov.uk, 07950 934793

Appendix 4

Church Report to APM 2024

Firstly, a big thank you to the village for the response to the Fundraising appeal in November. It costs on average £71 a day to run the church and regular income does not cover this fully so we rely on other donations and fundraising to make up the deficit. The response to the campaign this year, along with other fundraising events, meant that a large projected deficit was turned into a surplus. The structural deficit is a perennial challenge so we will be working hard throughout the coming year to implement a programme of fun and fundraising events to meet the increasing financial demands.

There have been some encouraging signs of growth over the last year, with the numbers coming to church increasing on average, and our musical services and events being particularly well attended and enjoyed. Building on and developing our strong musical tradition will be a keyway of both reaching out and fundraising in 2024.

A monthly pattern of four Sunday services was maintained throughout the year: Sung Evensong on the first Sunday, Holy Communion on the second and fourth Sundays, and All-Age Worship on the third Sunday. Forest Church, a new outdoor service for families and children began in October and has proved popular with local families. This is held every fourth Sunday at 3pm regardless of the weather. Our Evensong is the only Lordsbridge Choral Evensong so if you like a traditional sung contemplative service come to this one. We have used sung services to mark the coronation of King Charles III and on the feast day of St Peter and St Paul (June 29th). Other special services were All Souls, Remembrance Sunday, the Christmas Carol Service and a Crib Service held for the first time in recent years on the afternoon of Christmas Eve. An alternative Lordsbridge 'Worship at Home' is available every week via Zoom.

Beyond services we are committed to the preservation of St Peter and St Paul's, which has stood at the heart of the village for over 700 years, and its churchyard, so that it can remain open both now and in the future. The village church will continue to make its important contribution to village life at festival times like Easter, Harvest and Christmas and through Baptisms/Christenings, Weddings and Funerals. Some services held in the last year were for families who now live outside the parish but continue to feel a strong connection with this place. Everyone with connections to the parish can use the church in this way.

And the church building can be used for significant village events such as the annual Little Owl Christmas Fair, during which children from the village and school made decorations for our display in an Advent Window, as part of the wider village Advent Trail. The window was decorated with Angels, Sheep and Stars which matched the Advent themes of 'the first Christmas.' The church and churchyard continued to be open every day of the year and remain welcoming places for passers-by and for those wishing to find a place for contemplation. We are thankful for a faithful team drawn from across the village who

make the building a welcoming and safe space both with flowers and cleaning. We are pleased to be able to continue to make the church available for a Quaker Meeting on the first Sunday morning of the month and for the annual Lordsbridge Quiet Morning.

The close link between the church and the Village School has been maintained and is visible to the church community through our noticeboards which display the children's artwork and topics covered by clergy this year. Revd. Clare leads Tuesday morning Collective Worship at the School throughout the year and the entire school comes to the church to celebrate Easter; to mark the end of the School Year, with particular focus on those leaving at the end of Year 6; to celebrate Harvest and for a Christingle Service. The school also held its summer concert in the church. The link between the school and the church is strong.

The church was able to host a number of outstanding musical events in the last year including Instrumental Scholars from the University of Cambridge performing Cello Sonatas by Beethoven and Prokofiev, a Coronation 'Come and Sing' an internationally renowned cellist, performing Cello Suites and choral concerts by Cambridge choirs.

In 2023 the church was awarded a bronze Eco award under the A ROCHA Eco Church award scheme. This reflects how the church and community encourage engagement in caring for creation through the five key areas of Worship and Teaching, Management of church buildings, Management of church land, Community and global engagement, and Lifestyle. This goes alongside our Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire Wildlife Trust bronze award as we seek to encourage environmental diversity in the churchyard alongside our own contribution to responsible management of God's creation. The church has an ancient hedge with a number of dead elms that are a haven for fauna but can be toppled by the combination of high winds and the weight of ivy (as has occurred twice this year). If you are chain-saw experienced and would like to join churchyard work parties please let us know! Even if you're not and would like to help, watch out for announcements about churchyard work parties and come and join us.

David Wyatt
Church Warden

Revd. Clare Coates
Lead Minister

Appendix 5

Townlands Trust Report to the Dry Drayton Annual Parish Meeting on Friday 26th April 2024

- In 2023 long term chair Howard Russell died
- Major work of the Trust has become management of the Edwards Woodland for the ***general benefit of the inhabitants***
- Regular visitors to the Woodland will see that working parties have focussed on ash tree thinning, creating glades in areas affected by die-back and keeping rides clear
- There is well-established Woodland Management Team who call on a range of local and national experts for surveying bats, birds, bugs, butterflies, flora and other fauna
- WMT give regular updates in the Newsletter and other Dry Drayton media
- 2024 initiatives in carbon sequestration and water management (Callow / Beck Brook) and ongoing development of flora in the open meadow, opportunities for guided summer walks
- Thanks to Parish Council last years benches in us, to our neighbours, Stephen and Michael, and to Toby Dean for assistance with storm damage.
- Thanks to fellow trustees, Anne Harley , James Adams, Neil Harris, Steve Gardner, Val Perrin, and co-opted Ed Fleming and numerous friends!
- Townlands has limited funds and no income – a new initiative in the coming year may be establishment of a ‘Friends of the Edwards Woodland’.
- Look out for further opportunities to be part of surveys or to join working parties in the autumn
- 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 Professor Robert Edwards and family.

Purpose of DD Townlands Trust

For the public benefit

- a) The prevention or relief of poverty, either generally or individually, of people living in the area of benefit (i.e. the Parish of Dry Drayton) by making grants of money for providing or paying for items, services or facilities;*
- b) if and in so far as the income of the charity cannot be applied towards the object specified in sub clause a) above, the trustees may apply it to promote such*

***charitable purposes for the general benefit of the inhabitants of the area of
benefit as the trustees think fit.***

David Wyatt

Chair

DRAFT

Appendix 6

Dry Drayton Village Hall Chairman's Report for 2023

Overall, I believe 2023 was a successful year for the hall and its service to the community of Dry Drayton, and beyond. In line with our charity rules, we finished 2023 with a small operational profit and a continuing healthy bank balance.

A significant contributor to this are the very successful coffee mornings which have continued to break records for attendance through the year (and in 2024). Many thanks to Una, Gil, and all their helpers, bakers and, of course, you for your support, too.

Although overall occupancy of the hall was slightly lower, with fewer 'commercial' bookings, we've been able to accommodate more private parties and local groups. Of course, together with the S&VA, Lord Conrad brewery, and others, we had a very successful Coronation screening, with breakfast rolls, lunchtime picnic, live music and so on. However, sadly, the Friendship Club, which met in the hall over many years, closed at the end of the year. Also, I should mention that we occasionally have hirers that don't sufficiently respect that the hall is located in a residential area, and we always appreciate your feedback, so that we can communicate appropriately with them.

This time last year I reported on progress on modernisation of the stage and that our next priority was to sort out storage. So what we did last year was:

- Remove the old metal shed that was getting very worn out and was no longer weather proof and install two new sheds: one 'clean' for storage on the existing concrete plinth, and a second 'dirty' shed for gardening things, etc.
- Install two new picnic benches in our small garden
- Replace the old doors at the end of the hall which were becoming rotten and no longer secure
- Repaint the fascia, gable end, etc. on the outside. There is an amount of rot in the external woodwork but the paint job will buy us time before replacing it.

This year we've already replaced the old non-functioning heater in the combi room and have plans for long overdue redecorating there. And, our bigger project for 2024: we are well into the process of identifying sound absorption panels for the ceiling of the main hall to improve acoustics.

Finally, my sincere thanks as ever to the management team: Adrian(s), Judith, Cinnamon, Robbie, Sue, and Daniel for all their hard work. I should also make a special mention of Cinnamon and Judith, who have decided to step down, and to thank them both for their many contributions. Electing replacements for them is a top priority for this meeting.

Many thanks for your attention,

Robb, 23rd April 2024

Appendix 7

S&VA report

2023 went well with £5000 raised by the Marquee Team, the monies raised were used to support the newsletter in light of increased printing costs, the school and the Little Owl. At the end of 2023, Rachel Gardner stepped down after a highly successful term as newsletter editor.

The current year is presenting two main challenges: the newsletter and the marquee operations. For 2024 we are going to quarterly editions of the newsletter with 4 different editors. We are saying how that goes and will then decide how to operate in 2025. Les Waters has kindly picked up some of the slack in distributing news by increasing the frequency of his emails when needed. In addition he is hosting a calendar of village events on the village website which the S&VA is coordinating with the school, the pub and the church. Other village groups should contact Les Waters and the S&VA to add events if they wish.

The second issue is the need to buy a new, smaller trailer and new parts for the marquee. This will allow us to widen the team of people able to tow the marquee. The total cost will be £12000 (inc VAT) which is more than the reserve that has been built up for such a time. We are looking into grants to make up the difference, possibly starting with the Rural England Prosperity Fund, and **request that the Parish Council formally support such applications.** Any suggestions for schemes to apply to would be welcome.

DRAFT

Appendix 8

WWW.drydrayton.net

www.DryDrayton.net, now in its 23rd year, is an independent non-commercial community website for the village.

The site receives around 38,000 visits per year. The site offers free web space for all Dry Drayton organisations and our elected representatives. Please E-mail material to be published to webmaster@drydrayton.net and normally this will be posted online within 24 hours.

The website includes a village calendar, the latest Dry Drayton Newsletter and an archive of the last year's issues.

Users can sign up on the village website 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 33 such circulations in the last year to a mailing list of just over 210. Now that the Village Newsletter is published quarterly, rather than monthly, it is anticipated that the number of e-mail circulations will increase.

Information and content for the site is always welcome, likewise feedback.

webmaster@drydrayton.net

Appendix 9

Allotment Report 2023-2024

I am pleased to report that all the allotments are taken. It will be a late start to the growing season owing to the very wet conditions this year. Some plot holders have yet to get started.

Unfortunately the deer are a real menace and crops have to be covered and protected at all times.

Thanks to the plot holders who regularly keep the main paths mowed.

Graham Carter

22nd April 2024

Dry Drayton Community Speedwatch Report, April 2024

Dry Drayton's Community Speedwatch operates two devices on behalf of DDPC and Cambridgeshire Police as follows:

Speed Indication Device, SID

Three volunteers set up for an hour beside the road, in the village or at Scotland Farm, noting vehicles travelling at 35 mph or more. Cambridgeshire Police send a letter to the registered keeper, advising them about the driver's behaviour. A third letter can result in a Police Officer visiting the keeper's address and inspecting the vehicle. Letters are counted from anywhere in the county.

We have held a speedwatch session almost every week over the last twelve months, twice a week sometimes. We have reported almost 500 vehicles.

Thanks are due to S Carlisle, K Lochen, R Lunn, S Aldersley and R Johnston for their commitment to the team.

Mobile Vehicle Activated Sign, MVAS

The MVAS is moved between designated locations every month, indicating the speed of vehicles coming towards it. It also records data on vehicles travelling in the opposite direction. Data from last 12 months is:



Total number of vehicles travelling through the village in a year, counting both directions, is 1.1 million!

Notice that around half as many vehicles are speeding on approaching the MVAS, as opposed to those going in the opposite direction. This demonstrates that the MVAS is an effective speed reduction measure.

Thanks to S Houlihane, S Aldersley and R Johnston for assistance in moving and maintaining the MVAS.

Commentary

Our community speedwatch appears to have a positive outcome. It shows that Dry Drayton cares about speeding and we believe that, since we started in December 2021, drivers are treating our village with more respect. However, Scotland Farm continues to be an area where drivers speed excessively.

We have delivered leaflets at Scotland Farm, trying to recruit speedwatch volunteers but without result. It would be helpful if someone at Scotland Farm could store the ladder and change batteries each week while the MVAS is operating there. Additional volunteers within the village would also be very welcome.

DDPC to note that our SID is preset to 30 mph and cannot be used in any new 20 or 40 mph zones, or at higher speed locations on the extremes of the parish. New equipment would be required for such locations and operations there require approval from CCC Highways and Cambridgeshire Police.

Elsewhere, we have reviewed proposals for 40 mph buffer zones, noting that new village name signs should be included in the project. We have helped maintain focus on CCC's delayed NMU path from the village up to the A14 and we have reported numerous highway maintenance issues on the CCC website.

One maintenance issue concerns the replacement of wooden reflector posts at the chicanes and mini roundabout on Oakington Road. These have been missing for over two years. I was contacted by a Highways Officer in May 2023 who undertook to get this work started but nothing has happened to date.

The Highways Officer also undertook to get our long-awaited two additional posts for the MVAS installed, but again this hasn't happened.

We are concerned about the footpath beside the road from Trinity Stables to Hill View. The path is narrow, muddy, often waterlogged, and close beside the road where HGVs pass within inches of pedestrians, including children going to and from school. The path needs rebuilding in parts, taking advantage of space up to the hedge. However, CCC Highways does not see this as necessary.

Too many HGVs use our village road which serves as Cambridge's western ring-road because the Girton Interchange lacks all-ways connectivity. The road is not fit this purpose and has subsided in places due to inadequate foundations when it was widened from a narrow country lane in the 1950s. Houses beside the road suffer excessive noise and vibrations. Most potholes are caused by underlying subsidence and not simply surface damage. The road and road markings require substantial maintenance and alternative routes for HGVs should be found.

Finally, we are not aware of any police enforcement here during the last year. Whilst we understand the police have many priorities this is disappointing, and your community speedwatch volunteers would appreciate it if the police operated a radar gun here at least once a year to support our efforts.

Chris Turner, April 26th 2024