

Draft until signed
Minutes of the Annual Dry Drayton Parish Meeting
Tuesday 12th May 2026 at 6pm, Dry Drayton Village Hall

Present: Cllr S Aldersley (Chair), Cllr E Pyle (Councillor), Cllr C Wright (Councillor)

Attending: Sarah Etherington-Meech (Clerk/RFO), Cllr R Stobart (District Councillor), Linda Swain (Dry Drayton Newsletter), Neil Harris (S&VA), Chris Turner (Speedwatch), Cllr E Murphy (County Councillor), 6 members of the public including Sean Houlihane & Sue Carlisle (Dry Drayton Village Hall Management Committee member)

1. Welcome, introductions and apologies for absence

Apologies received from Cllr J Granger (Parish Councillor), Cllr C Garvie (District Councillor), Alison Arnold and Sonia Hegan (Dry Drayton Primary School), Val Perrin (Edwards Woodland), Revd Clare Coates (St Peter and St Pauls Church), David Alexander (Chair of Dry Drayton Village Hall Management Committee), Les Waters (Webmaster for drydrayton.net)

2. Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held on Friday 16th May 2025

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

3. Matters arising

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

Chris Turner on behalf of the Community Speedwatch Team presented the following report:

- Not much has changed with an active team of around 6.
- When reviewed a few months ago figures for traffic and speeding were much the same as they have been for the past 4-5 years.
- 52 weeks a year report vehicles going over 35 mph on average 15 in an hour.

- There has been good support from Cambridgeshire Police with the support of a marked car at time and the police do sent letters for vehicles travelling over 35mph.
- It is believed that there will be an increase in HGVs with the Bourn development.
- A suggestion has been raised with the Parish Council and their Chair for the purchase of two more speed indicator devices to be placed at each end of the village. In relation to this Chris advised that he has been in contact with Highways and they are coming out to examine posts to see if they are safe enough to use, as they are old and corroded. Highways have warned not to proceed with purchase of MVAS until they are confident that the posts are safe to use. If the posts are safe would then the parish council would need to consider making an LHI application.
- Finally, as the community Speedwatch coordinator, Chris highlighted great concern for the village and community over the new logistic parks that are being proposed for the A14. He believes these will lead to many vehicles going through the village as he is unaware of any other viable routes. He fears that Cambridgeshire County Council and South Cambs District Council will want to see this type of growth and expansion. He believes that if the proposals go ahead there needs to be some way of opening the junction with the A1198.
- Chris hopes that the County and District Councillors will give full support for an east to west connection between the A14 and A428.

Following the above, Cllr Aldersley invited a resident to speak as he had issues with the speed of vehicles going through the village. They raised the potential of adding speed humps at the top end of Dry Drayton opposite Scotland Farm. They explained that they had just lost their second cat due to speeding vehicles and their neighbour the same. It was further raised that children live in this area which is of great concern with the speed of vehicles coming past. It was further highlighted that there has been a significant increase in traffic between the A14 & A428 and it is a rat run. HGVs and motorbikes come thundering through. Cllr Aldersley suggested consideration of making an LHI application for next year. However, he highlighted that with the Scotland Farm travel hub he hopes there will be money from the developers from the A1307 and A428 available for traffic calming for the whole village. A suggestion was also made during the discussion of priority chicanes. Cllr Aldersley also suggested that the Speedwatch Team spend more time in this location.

Neil Harris (Chair) on behalf S&VA presented the following report:

- S&VA are a volunteer group which was set up a while back and who raise money for Dry Drayton Primary School and the Village Association.
- They raise around 5-6K a year with the bulk of funds being given to the school as many village things are no longer around such as the WI.

- An example of where funds go is for table tennis tables, these are used on a Friday afternoon and has proved very successful.
- Most of the fundraising is through the marquee team who raise around 3-4K renting the marquee to outside the village. Neil said he would like to say his thanks for the money previously received for refurbishing the marquee.
- Both S&VA and the marquee team will soon be celebrating their 50 year anniversary and next week will be considering how to celebrate this big achievement with the volunteers.

Linda Swain on behalf of Dry Drayton Newsletter presented the following report:

- Linda has been the newsletter editor for 18 months now and advised that there was not much to report.
- It is going well and there is enough information provided to fill all 24 pages of the newsletter and sometimes it can be an effort to fit it all in.
- The newsletter has included a children's page, quizzes for adults and allotment history and Linda is open to suggestions for what residents would like to see.
- The newsletter is delivered to nearly 360 houses in the village and even though some people receive the village email some would still like a paper copy and Linda will continue to provide this.

Sue Carlisle on behalf of Dry Drayton Village Hall Management Committee presented the following further to their report in Appendix 6:

- The village hall is used by regular users as well as for parties, wakes and other gatherings.
- They are not making much money and just managing to keep their head above water. This has been further compounded by having to spend £10K on a new flat roof which was 30 years old and leaking. Due to this Sue asked if anyone would like to donate towards this or arrange fundraising.

Edwards Woodland (Townlands Trust) report – see Appendix 4

St Peters and St Paul's Church report – see Appendix 5

Dry Drayton Village Hall Management Committee report – see Appendix 6

Dry Drayton Webmaster report – see Appendix 7

Dry Drayton C of E Primary School and Pre-School report – see Appendix 8

8. Parishioners' questions, suggestions, and comments

A parishioner raised concerns about information dissemination and how it needs to be consistent with getting it out there to people. Cllr Aldersley explained that there is village email and WhatsApp group and that the village website has dates on for future events.

9. Closure of meeting

Meeting closed at 7.12pm

Signed.....

Date.....

DRAFT

Appendix 1

Annual Parish Meeting 2026 – Parish Council Report

In my time on the Parish Council, one thing has become clear: progress on agenda items can be slow. As I noted in last year's annual report, a number of issues return to the agenda repeatedly, and regrettably this remains the case in 2026.

Local Highways Improvement (LHI) Applications

As probably most have seen, two LHI (Local Highways Improvement) applications have been implemented over the past 12 months. The 40mph buffer zones approaching the village boundaries and HGV advisory signs were put in place towards the end of 2025. Whilst the signs are not legally enforceable, it is hoped that they may act as a deterrent. Likewise, whilst it is a little early to assess the impact of the buffer zones, it is hoped that our colleagues in the Speedwatch group will witness fewer vehicles exceeding the 30mph limit through the village.

The other project which has been completed is the introduction of parking restrictions on Park Street by the school. The restrictions have been put in place to make the area around the school safer for children and parents alike, as well as to make it easier for residents to access their properties. I have received positive feedback from the school on the works, although I was also advised that some parents still need to be reminded to drive with consideration around the school.

To support the introduction of the parking restrictions by the school, the Parish Council has submitted an LHI application to increase the length of the layby outside the True Jesus Church. This can only be extended by approximately the length of two cars and so whilst this would provide some additional parking for people to drop off their children at the school, additional temporary parking is required.

As part of the application, it is proposed that the top of Park Lane near View Farm Close is used for temporary parking and a zebra crossing be constructed at the former Park Lane/Park Street junction (by View Farm Close) to provide a safe means to cross Park Street near Warrington Farm. Not only will this be of benefit to parents taking their children to school, but it will also help to link the two parts of the village. The crossing will also provide a degree of traffic calming, something which is needed in the village.

We do not yet know whether our application will be successful but should learn more over the summer. If our application is approved, it is unlikely that it will be implemented until 2028, although the Parish Council will bring pressure to bear on the Council to hasten the work.

Non-Motorised User Access (NMU) routes from the village.

I am afraid that there has been no progress to report on either the proposed route from the village to the A1307 or to the proposed travel hub at Scotland Farm. The Parish Council regularly requests updates from our councillors but progress, if there is any, has been very slow in coming forward. Both NMUs are required to make travel from the village safer and greener. However, I fear that there is a long way to go before any decisions are made.

Planned Distribution Hubs on A14/A1307

There are applications for four distribution centres/employment parks on the edge of the village and beyond. The closest is Cambridge 25 (<https://cambridge25.com/>) which is planned to be located on 120 acres of land between Dry Drayton Road and B1060 at Bar Hill. Other sites are Tritax Big Box

Cambridge (<https://www.tritaxbigbox.co.uk/our-spaces/cambridge>) which is to be located on land north of the Bar Hill junction; Jaynic (<https://jaynic.co.uk/land-adjacent-to-a14cambridge-services-boxworth-cambridgeshire/>) on 60 acres of land on the A14 Swavesey junction by Cambridge services; and the Boxworth Gateway (Newlands Park) (<https://newlandsparkcambridge.co.uk/>) on 220 acres of land also by Cambridge Services, but the other side of Boxworth Road to that proposed by Jaynic.

Several villages will be affected by these developments and a group comprising of the affected parishes was established to voice our collective concerns about each of these sites, as well as worries as to how each may affect individual villages. The obvious issue for Dry Drayton is the increase in traffic of all types through the village, but particularly HGVs. From the presentations which I have attended, it is apparent that little has been done by any of the sites' developers, or their agents, to model and predict traffic flows and the likely impact on the surrounding villages. However, a recent presentation by representatives from Cambridge 25 explained the steps which they intend to take to restrict HGV traffic (the use of cameras and automatic number plate recognition) but how effective this will be and whether this can be implemented remains to be seen. Needless to say, the Parish Council will do all that it can to find out more about the developments and their likely impacts, and if we are to have them on our doorstep (two of the four are likely), then seek funds from the developer to implement traffic calming and restriction measures through the village.

My thanks

As always, 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 my fellow Parish Councillors for their support over the last year, and, of course, our clerk, Sarah Etherington-Meech for the support, advice and guidance she has provided to me and the rest of the Parish Council over the past 12 months.

Finally...

Whilst Cllr. Wright has joined the Parish Council, Cllr. Baqir has had to step down for personal reasons. I would like to welcome Chris to the Parish Council and to thank Emma for her contribution. As has been mentioned on various occasions, there are vacancies (there should be seven councillors on the Parish Council) and so 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

Annual Report 2026



CLLR EDNA MURPHY

County councillor for Bar Hill division

(including Bar Hill, Girton, Dry Drayton, Lolworth)

Introduction

Local elections took place for all 61 seats on Cambridgeshire County Council on Thursday 1 May 2025. The table below shows the current composition of the Council compared to the election results in May 2021, and to this time last year.

	2021	2025	Now
Conservatives	28	10	10
Liberal Democrats	20	31	31
Labour	9	5	5
Independents	4	2	2
Reform UK	0	10	9
Non-aligned	0	0	1

Since the election, the Liberal Democrats and Independents have formed a Liberal Democrat and Independent Group. The election for Mayor of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough also took place on Thursday 1 May 2025, with Paul Bristow (Conservative) elected.

1 The Council

- 1.1** The Liberal Democrat and Independent Group now runs the Council. Our vision is to create a healthy, fair and sustainable Cambridgeshire.
- 1.2** As a result of taking control I was elected to serve as the Chair of the Children and Young People's Committee, with responsibility for children's services including education, SEND, children in care, fostering and adoption, and early years. I am also on the Council's Strategy, Resources and Performance Committee, and am Chair of the Lib Dem Group.
- 1.3** With the responsibility for children and young people comes leadership and participation in a number of internal and external formal groups such as the Virtual School Board, the Children's Rapid Improvement Board, Children's Safeguarding and the Schools' Forum. I am also the Council's representative on the Skills Committee of the Combined Authority, planning and administering government funds allocated to our area for skills.
- 1.4** The Council has considered a number of

issues put forward by councillors for debate in motions. These include opposing any plans to merge our local police force into a larger and more remote body; the need for support for people in mental health crisis or at suicide risk, GP services for growing communities, and the importance of flood prevention in the Fens.

2 Strategy Resources & Performance

- 2.1** The Council set its budget in February 2026, including record spending on roads, thousands of extra school places, and support for vulnerable residents.
- 2.2** The budget included an additional £20m for highway maintenance, delivery of the council's climate and environment strategy, and £11m to upgrade household recycling centres at Milton and March.
- 2.3** £14.7m of additional funding was allocated for adult social care providers to help them manage rising costs and ensure care workers are paid the Real Living Wage, improving stability and quality for those who depend on care workers for their support.
- 2.4** Provision of holiday meal vouchers will continue until the end of summer 2026 for those children most in need, despite the Government replacing the Household Support Fund which used to pay for most of it. The Government's replacement (the Crisis and Resilience Fund) is less generous than its predecessor, and is intended to provide a wide range of anti-poverty measures for people of all ages.
- 2.5** There will be 3,500 new primary school places, and £72m over 5 years to increase secondary school places. There will also be continued funding for the Families First early intervention programme that helps keep more families together. And more than £1.2m will be invested in libraries and archives over the next 2 years.
- 2.6** The council ran its third annual Quality of Life survey in 2025, which provides valuable insights into residents' perspectives and priorities. 5,500 residents (1,100 in each district) were directly polled for their views, and the survey was open in the summer for any other resident who wished to complete it.
- 2.7** Like almost every county and unitary council, the Council increased its portion

of council tax by 4.99 % in total — 2 % for adult social care, and 2.99 % for general spending.

3 Adults and Health

- 3.1** The Adults and Health Committee has a significant role in ensuring that health inequalities are reduced, and that people enjoy healthy, safe, and independent lives through timely support suited to their needs.
- 3.2** One of the first decisions of the new 2025 Liberal Democrat administration was to split the committee into two committees—one for its public health, adult social care and procurement responsibilities, and the other dedicated to the council's role in scrutinising local NHS services.
- 3.3** The council's adult social care services were rated as Good by the Care Quality Commission in summer last year.
- 3.4** This has been a turbulent time for the Integrated Care Boards (ICBs). ICBs are statutory NHS organisations in England responsible for planning and buying healthcare services for local populations. They replaced Clinical Commissioning Groups in 2022.
- 3.5** Last year the Government required enormous in-year and ongoing savings to be made by ICBs. This has resulted in mergers of many ICBs as a way of cutting jobs. Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, instead of having its own ICB, is now part of NHS Central East, covering Cambridgeshire, Peterborough, Bedfordshire, Luton, Milton Keynes and Hertfordshire.
- 3.6** Maple Surgery in Bar Hill is now much more established but primary care provision across Cambridgeshire remains very fragile, with most residents relying on private dental provision, poor support for mental health services particularly for young people, and many GP practices are hanging on by a thread.
- 3.7** The new Health Scrutiny Committee has held a number of meetings where we have heard from various health providers and had the opportunity to ask searching questions. Subjects considered by the Committee have included dentistry, primary care and GP services, and services for children and young people with autism.
- 3.8** The future of the Arthur Rank Hospice in Cambridge remains uncertain, after the NHS Trust withdrew over £800k. A private donation has enabled it to continue for a further year.

4 Assets and Procurement

- 4.1** The County Council's Assets and Procurement Committee (of which I am a member) has agreed a partnership with developer Prologis to support the future expansion of Cambridge Biomedical Campus.
- 4.2** The council's Shareholder Sub-Committee approved an updated business plan from the council's wholly-owned company This Land. We have worked extremely hard to stabilise the company, transforming it from the way it had been set up 10 years ago under Conservative control. The updated business plan enables the company to repay interest, reduce the amounts owed to the council, and limit the council's exposure to risk.

5 Children and Young People

- 5.1** Like most county councils, Cambridgeshire continues to experience huge financial pressures associated with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, and with the costs of home to school transport.
- 5.2** The number of children in Cambridgeshire with an Education Health and Care Plan has grown by 71% between 2020 and 2025. The council invested an additional £780k in the autumn to increase capacity to process these plans. The Government will be delivering two new special schools in the county, in Gamlingay and March, with 270 new special school places.
- 5.3** Cambridgeshire County Council's services for care leavers have improved since 2024, according to an Ofsted visit in July 2025. They also listed four areas for further improvement.
- 5.4** A new Community outreach service from the council aims to support and develop the skills of parents and children from birth to five years, and of those leading community groups for families with children from 0 to 5.

6 COSMIC

- 6.1** COSMIC (Communities, Social Mobility and Inclusion Committee) has continued to oversee support for people experiencing immediate financial hardship. An increasing number of families are struggling financially now.

6.2 One urgent issue is the sudden spike in the price of domestic heating oil as a result of President Trump's war in Iran. The council has received £708k from the Government which is ring-fenced to support households struggling with this. The money has been added to the council's Crisis & Resilience Fund, and applications (for up to £400 per household) are being administered by the Cambridgeshire Community Foundation. Eligibility for this fund is currently restricted to those on specific means-tested benefits. If the Government's grant were to be shared equally among every household in the county reliant on oil heating, each household would receive less than £27.50—the council is having to make difficult decisions about priorities.

6.3 The committee has procured an IT system which will enable more systematic and earlier identification of low income households which would benefit from support. South Cambridgeshire District Council has been using this system for a couple of years now, with remarkable results.

6.4 Work is under way to implement the recommendations of Cambridgeshire's Poverty Strategy Commission. These are grouped into 6 themes: income maximisation, digital inclusion, rural poverty, housing and homelessness, children and families, and mental health.

6.5 Adult learning services in Cambridgeshire were given a Good rating by Ofsted in spring 2025, with the behaviour and attitude of learners judged to be Outstanding.

7 Environment

7.1 Water scarcity and water management is a key issue for Cambridgeshire. Water Resources East is responsible for producing a regional water resources plan for Eastern England, with a combination of infrastructure investment and demand management.

7.2 Meanwhile, the Fens2100+ project, which brings together a number of agencies to develop a long-term plan to manage future flood risk in the Fens, has published a suite of reports including a Case for Change, Partnership Action

Plan, and summary baseline report.

7.3 The move of Anglian Water's waste water treatment plant from north-east Cambridge to Horningsea was thwarted after the Government removed the necessary funding.

7.4 Community watercourse grants are available from the council to support communities where the condition of local watercourses is increasing the risk of flooding. These can be used for clearance and maintenance, equipment hire, contractor support, or training and safety equipment.

7.5 Cambridgeshire County Council is calling on residents to play an active role in restoring local nature as part of the 'Nature Recovery - From the Ground Up' project—a new initiative supporting parishes and community groups to design their own Community Nature Recovery Plans. The first phase of the project runs from July 2025 to March 2027, focusing on Cambridge and twenty parishes across East Cambridgeshire, Fenland, Huntingdonshire, and South Cambridgeshire. Other parishes are invited to use the project resources and mapping software, and to register interest for future phases of the project.

7.6 Cambridgeshire County Council has been ranked by Climate Emergency UK as one of the top performing councils in the country for the action it has taken towards Net Zero.

7.7 Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Waste Partnership (RECAP) is urging residents to recycle batteries and battery-powered electricals safely, following an increase in fires caused by incorrectly disposed-of lithium-ion batteries. Across the UK, over 1,200 waste-related fires were recorded last year—a 71 % rise since 2022.

7.8 The Cambridgeshire Digital Inclusion Directory is a practical guide to help residents get online, access devices, and build essential digital skills. It features trusted local organisations offering free support with digital access, equipment and training. Printed copies

Appendix 3

District Councillors' Annual Report to Dry Drayton Parish, May 2026

This municipal year 2025/26 has been quite a busy one and this report covers the last 12 months of activities by South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC) and Councillors.

Your District Councillors have been Richard Stobart and Corinne Garvie

In addition to ward work we have served on the following committees: Scrutiny and Overview, Audit, Civil Affairs, Licensing, Planning, the Joint Development Management Committee (Strategic Planning), SCIP, the South Cambridgeshire and Investment Partnership which has recently started the development of the Cambium Square estate in Cambourne, and the Blue Plaque committee.

In addition, we have attended the monthly Parish Council meetings to present reports and to help solve problems and we have picked up work for the following Parish meeting. In addition, the monthly coffee mornings has been attended to find out any concerns or issues of residents which needed action.

We have alerted the parish council of grants which would help the residents, like the allotment grant. This will pay for a fence to keep out predators.

Grants were applied for small businesses and advice given to local enterprises on how to apply for grants. The Cricket Club successfully was granted two Community Chest grants to help in the re-building and furnishing of the new pavilion.

The Councillors were in contact with the empty homes officer on two occasions.

Also the Councillors responded to infrastructure consultations where there might be an impact on Dry Drayton.

In the future we would like to pursue a Neighbourhood Plan. This would become a legal document and provide some protection for Dry Drayton from future development. This depends on residents coming forward to help with it.

Governance

South Cambridgeshire District Council is in Liberal Democrats administration. The statutory services provided are: Waste Collection & Recycling, Planning (these two are shared services with Cambridge City but we host them), Housing, Environmental Health, Licensing, Council Tax Collection, Benefits and Business Development & Support, and Community Services.

We adopted the new corporate plan that has been shaped by feedback from residents in our communities.

The priority areas we identified are:

- **Healthy and Supported Communities (HSC)** – We want to create a district where people feel safe, supported, and confident in their communities. Together, we'll focus on what delivers for residents, enabling healthier, more independent lives for everyone.
- **Sustainable Homes and Vibrant Places (SHVP)** – We want to help people live near their work, shops, schools, leisure, and healthcare, with affordable and reliable public transport.
- **Being Green To Our Core (GTOC)** – We will consistently promote a cleaner, greener, zero carbon future for our communities. We aim to safeguard and enhance the natural world for future generations and help our communities do the same as we strive to be among the most sustainable places to live and work in the country.

• **Helping Businesses To Thrive in South Cambridgeshire (HBT)** – We will support Local businesses as they start up and grow and as we transition towards a sustainable economy. Working with partners we are helping our residents develop the skills they need to take full advantage of local opportunities.

• **Financially Secure and Fit For The Future (FSFF)** - We will make it easier for residents to engage with our services and democratic processes. We will make smart financial decisions to safeguard our services for the future and invest in our staff to ensure they remain equipped to deliver for our district's needs.

Full details on the SCDC website at <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/our-corporate-plan>

Elections

This is the final year of the current District Council Administration, and also the last election of SCDC as we know it, as Local Government Reorganisation is moving to a Unitary Authority style within the next two years.

Highways and Road Conditions

Road conditions remain a priority, and we continue to press on pothole repairs and the need for longer-term resurfacing solutions.

While there are maintenance programmes in place, we very aware that many residents are not yet seeing the level of improvement they expect. We have raised specific concerns about the quality and consistency of repairs, as well as the need to prioritise roads where there are clear safety concerns.

Zero Carbon Grants

Since its launch in 2019, the Zero Carbon Grants Scheme has funded 82 different projects, awarding over £855,000 to initiatives across the district. This has included energy generation, energy efficiency and conservation measures at community buildings, community cycling events, cycle shelters, food waste reduction initiatives, community allotment and gardening projects and much more.

South Cambridgeshire communities will benefit from further money to cut carbon emissions - after the District Council committed another £152,000 to this popular grant scheme. It was agreed to increase the maximum amount that can be handed out from £15,000 per project in previous years, to £19,500 this year.

The application process will open on Monday 25 May 2026 and close on Friday 24 July 2026. Projects on school sites and by parent / teacher associations will be able to apply if there is a benefit to the wider community. Sports groups – like bowls clubs – will also be eligible, so long as they provide benefits to the wider community like improving mental health or strengthening community ties.

Groups will also be able to apply for money to pay for electric vehicle charging points under the grant.

Of the total of £152,000 available for the forthcoming financial year, half is set aside for carbon reduction or projects that lock-up carbon, and the other half is earmarked for community engagement and nature projects – reflecting the aspirations of the Council's new Climate and Nature Strategy. Those interested in applying for a Zero Carbon Communities grant can join a workshop to find out more. Two sessions will be held on Wednesday 20 May. One will run from 12:30pm to 1:30pm and a second will take place from 6pm to 7pm. Potential applicants are encouraged to register for either.

More Grants

South Cambridgeshire District Council has awarded Community Chest grants to projects

that make a real difference to people's lives - improving wellbeing, tackling isolation, expanding support services, and creating welcoming spaces for residents of all ages.

New Hub for Northstowe

South Cambridgeshire District Council and Kier Construction came together last month to celebrate the completion of the Unity Centre – the permanent community centre in Northstowe

Government's Plans for an Urban Development Corporation

South Cambridgeshire District Councillors have voiced their strong opposition to Government proposals for a Greater Cambridge Urban Development Corporation. An Extraordinary Council Meeting was held to discuss the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's (MHCLG) Plans which would result in the creation of a board with most of its members appointed by Government, rather than being elected. At that meeting, Councillors also made clear they were strongly opposed to MHCLG's plans to remove key elements of the Council's planning powers and pass them to the new organisation for 25 years.

Councillors discussed how there is already approved or proposed development in Greater Cambridge's pipeline for over 100,000 new jobs and up to 77,000 new homes and suggested Government should focus on bringing forward these new homes and offices first in partnership with local councils. They said the main barriers to meeting current commitments are the lack of funding and slow delivery of transport and utility improvements. They stressed these problems do not come from the local planning system, but from wider infrastructure challenges and national regulations.

MHCLG are proposing that the new Development Corporation would become the local planning authority for major planning decisions above a certain threshold, as well as on larger development sites – removing that responsibility from the Greater Cambridge Shared Planning (GCSP) service which South Cambridgeshire District and Cambridge City councils share.

It would also replace the councils' role in preparing Local Plans after the conclusion of the current emerging Joint Local Plan. This would mean that, in future, decisions about where new homes and jobs come forward across Greater Cambridge would be made by the Development Corporation, rather than by local communities through the councils and the democratically elected councillors.

Plans to protect the South Cambridgeshire's Natural Environment

Plans for how the environment in South Cambridgeshire will be protected and improved over the next five years have been launched following an extensive consultation. South Cambridgeshire District Council has confirmed its new Climate and Nature Strategy, which will guide environmental priorities until 2030.

The launch of the new strategy comes after residents, community groups, businesses and partners contributed ideas for the vision - a district that leads boldly with a clear pathway for climate action, biodiversity recovery, and community resilience. Feedback to last year's consultation into the proposed strategy showed strong public backing for the Council's environmental ambitions and for the strategy's eight focus areas.

- Doubling the land managed for nature across the district by 2050, with support for meadow creation, enhanced waterways, and connected wildlife corridors.
- Reaching Net Zero district-wide by 2050, with significant interest in renewable energy, low carbon transport, and home retrofit.
- Reducing the Council's operational emissions by 75% by 2030, being an important leadership example for the district. The new solar farm at the Council's Greater Cambridge Shared Waste Waterbeach depot to fuel electric bin lorries is part of this vision.

- Ensuring communities are resilient to at least a 2°C rise in global temperatures, with feedback emphasising flood resilience, heat adaptation and community preparedness.

More Free Trees

Parish and town councils across South Cambridgeshire have been given free commemorative blossom trees by the District Council - to honour community volunteers and remember those affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The trees were provided for this year's UK-wide COVID-19 Day of Reflection - which took place on Sunday (8 March 2026).

South Cambridgeshire District Council offered all parish and town councils a free wild cherry tree – with 58 taking-up the offer. The idea is for the trees to stand as living tributes to the strength and compassion shown by the community during the pandemic.

The trees are being provided with plaques that honour the volunteers who gave their time and care to support those in need and remember all who were impacted and those who lost their lives.

Within the first 24 hours of the initial COVID-19 lockdown being announced by the Prime Minister in March 2020, South Cambridgeshire communities immediately began to self-organise to create local village and town based voluntary support networks.

In many parts of South Cambridgeshire, the immediate response was to ensure those at greatest risk were fully supported by volunteers who could help carry out shopping, collect prescriptions, walk residents' dogs, and ensure no one was suffering from social isolation.

This proactive approach from local volunteers was the driving factor behind the way the District Council organised its resources to enable a full coordinated response.

As well as support from the District Council's staff, district councillors led from the front to work with their communities and voluntary groups to ensure the needs of a diverse range of groups were met.

The result was a network of 105 groups, with over 4,000 volunteers at their peak, covering every parish in the district so no one was left unsupported.

Weekly food waste collections

This year will see the roll-out of the government's weekly food waste collections. This will help reduce the amount of food waste being sent to landfill and the waste will be used in anaerobic digesters to produce biofuels. The reason for the delay is that it takes a lot of time to acquire all the additional lorries that are needed. More information is here: <https://tinyurl.com/ykwrf83t>

Local Government Reorganisation LGR

The council has spent a great deal of time during the last year dealing with government requirements for a Local Government Reorganisation (LGR). This is the Government's plan to merge two-level County and District councils across the country into a single layer of unitary councils. In November 2025, the principal authorities of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough submitted their proposals for what those new councils should look like. The Government consultation ended on 26th March 2026 and decisions are expected to be announced during the summer.

SCDC submitted Option B. Elections will take place in May 2027 into the shadow councils, giving them a year to prepare ready to start operating in May 2028.

New Council Homes

We recognise that everyone deserves a high-quality, safe, and affordable place to live. When the current administration came to power in 2018, the council was building about 35 new council houses each year. Furthermore, because of 'right to buy' sales its portfolio was shrinking so the period 2013 to 2018 saw a net reduction of 99 council houses.

Since 2018 the current administration has nearly quadrupled the rate of council house building. This year, at the time of writing, at least 130 new council homes had been completed across the district and by the end of the financial year, we will have delivered 139 new council homes with a further 160 planned for next year. This is something the administration is very proud of - developing affordable housing in our district, responding to resident requirements as quickly as possible.

Affordable Housing Delivery

Affordable housing is generally delivered by housing associations, often through S106 schemes especially on major sites. The Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) recently published by the GC Shared Planning Service shows that 2024-2025 2,265 new homes were completed across Greater Cambridge, the highest since 2011.

Of these 1,735 new homes were in South Cambridgeshire, of which 424 were affordable homes.

Work has begun on building out the SCIP development next to South Cambs Hall in Cambourne. SCIP is the South Cambridgeshire Investment Partnership (SCIP) with The Hill Group. The project will build 256 new low-carbon Passivhaus principles homes of which 40% (102) will be affordable comprising 72 for rent and 30 for shared ownership.

We are well into a programme of upgrading the thermal efficiency of our existing council housing stock using grant funding from Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund to bring them up to EPC Band C which will result in a significant reduction in energy running costs for tenants.

Bringing Empty Homes Back into Use

A major milestone has been reached in tackling long-term empty homes in South Cambridgeshire, with 75 properties brought back into use in the last three years. This was achieved by appointing an Empty Homes Officer in 2022. To find out more about our work bringing empty homes back into use visit our webpage at <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/housing/empty-homes>.

M&Me App—For council tenants to report repairs

The Council has launched M&Me, a new mobile app developed in partnership with Mears, offering council tenants a quicker and more convenient way to report repairs. Using the app, tenants can report a repair at any time, choose an appointment slot that suits them, receive real-time alerts and updates about their repair, see who will be attending their home and when.

Mears will be writing to all council tenants with full details about the new app, including their unique access code.

Multi -award Winning Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service (GCSPS)

South Cambs hosts the Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service (GCSPS), the joint planning service for both SCDC and Cambridge City. As the Cabinet Member responsible for the Service, it was pleasing to see the focussed transformation work over the years (from 2018 when we took over administration) result in the service winning three prestigious awards in 2025.

- The Royal Town Planning Institute's national Local Planning Authority of the Year 2025
- The Planning Award for 'Planning for the Natural Environment',
- The TET (Thornton Education Trust) Inspire Future Generations Award for 'Best Local Authority in Youth Engagement' 2025.

The service has come a long way and hopefully will continue to provide this level of service when the councils transform to a new unitary authority and if/when the proposed Development Corporation is established.

Emerging Draft Joint Local Plan

Work is much advanced on the joint local plan with Cambridge City that should determine how our district is developed over the period 2025-2045 (DevCo permitting). The recently concluded consultation on the Reg18 stage showed strong community engagement with over 4500 responses gained from over 80 events online and offline. These comments are now being compiled and analysed. The proposals will go through normal process with members to finalise the version to go to final Reg 19 stage. This will then come out for final public consultation in the summer and subsequently submitted to MHCLG by the deadline of December 2026. More information at <https://greatercambridgeplanning.org/emerging-plans-and-guidance/greater-cambridge-local-plan/>.

Current Local Plan and Annual Monitoring Report (AMR)

The AMR is a requirement by Government and is a report tracking how well Greater Cambridge is delivering its current adopted Local Plans. The report is for the 2024-2025 municipal year and highlights include:

- 7,000+ applications handled
- 9,900 homes approved
- 2,264 homes completed — highest since 2011 – 1735 in South Cambs
- 687 affordable homes - 424 in South Cambs (part of total)
- 62,000 sqm employment space completed - 51,956 in South Cambs
- 408,000 sqm approved

Planning News

The Five-Year Housing Land Supply (with Cambridge City) is 5.6 years for the period 2026-31.

The GCSPS has also won £800,000 of Government Prop Tech funding & Digital Planning Improvement fund for work on our digital transformation in planning to enable residents engage more easily and for continuous improvement in providing the services to business and residents.

A new more accessible website was launched at <https://greatercambridgeplanning.org/LiaisonForum>

The Bourn Airfield and Cambourne Community Liaison Forum was created to discuss and circulate information regarding the continued development of the growth sites along the A428 corridor and are open to the public. These have proven useful especially as Bourn Quarter has grown with Phases 1 and 2, and Bourn Airfield new owners Greycoat have begun to work on the site. It has been an honour chairing these meetings.

Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)

This SPD is a guide for Section 106 agreements, explaining how existing policy is applied in a clearer way. It gives developers, communities, parish councils and decision-makers a shared understanding of what's expected. That helps planning applications move more smoothly and reduces long, drawn-out negotiations.

Helping Businesses To Thrive in South Cambridgeshire

The Business team is doing a lot of work to support local businesses (specifically SMEs) to grow, which will help local communities thrive, bringing jobs and opportunities into our villages.

The team continues to work closely with local businesses, stallholders, traders and event organisers to run markets across the district. It benefits residents and communities by being able to shop locally. One of these is the Girton Farmers Market that takes place in Williams Collyn Village Hall on the second Saturday of the month. The full list available at <https://visitsouthcambs.co.uk/see-do/markets/>.

South Cambs Christmas Market

South Cambridgeshire District Council hosted its indoor Christmas Market for the fourth year running. The festive extravaganza usually has around 100 stalls from local independent small businesses and market stallholders.

Visit South Cambs Website

The VisitSouthCambs website at <https://visitsouthcambs.co.uk/> is increasingly popular with small businesses advertising and used by visitors to the area to see what's available to do in the district.

South Cambs Business Newsletter

The Business Newsletter is available and anyone can sign for business support, news and information. More information at <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/business>

Healthy and Supported Communities

We are making more and more of our services available online and launched our new website with much improved accessibility. SAM – the web chat help has been very useful.

Our commercial investments are successfully bringing increasing income to the Council enabling us to provide more facilities. One example is the recently completed Unity Centre at Northstowe. The construction combines Passive House principles (low operational carbon) with low lifecycle carbon materials to deliver a net zero design. The building has been leased to the Northstowe Town Council who are now the operators of this impressive new facility. Doors will open to the public from 30 March.

We are also providing targeted health and wellbeing support for vulnerable residents and ensuring our staff have the training to respond appropriately to safeguarding issues.

Mobile Wardens scheme

SCDC continues to support the Mobile Wardens Scheme, which offers support and assistance for older people. This allows them to continue to live independently at home by providing daily contact (Monday to Friday) either by a personal visit or by a telephone call, to ensure a sense of security and wellbeing. SCDC has set out a funding programme which will enable mobile warden schemes to become more financially independent, hopefully securing their long-term viability across the district.

Homes for Ukraine scheme and Newsletter

Sadly, it's now been four years since the full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine, and many

Ukrainians are still unable to safely return home. South Cambridgeshire continues to support Ukrainian guests. There are 104 Ukrainian guests being hosted in South Cambridgeshire, being hosted by 75 households. Many have moved on to private rented accommodation in the UK. In total 1,009 people have arrived in South Cambridgeshire under the Homes for Ukraine Scheme. South Cambs provides a regular newsletter for Ukrainian guests living in our district.

Cabinet and Town / Parish Council Liaison

Cabinet holds meetings with parish councils, to share information relevant to communities and give opportunity to parish councillors to raise issues of concern directly to the administration.

Cost of Living Support

With many residents still facing financial pressures, the Council will continue providing its comprehensive cost-of-living support package. A budget of £449,000 is set aside to help residents through the next two years through schemes such as emergency food and energy support, workshops, budgeting and debt advice, white goods and furniture for vulnerable people and laptops with digital training.

Town and Parish Council Liaison Officer

The council continues to employ a Town and Parish Council Liaison Officer – Jack Bullimore – who has acted as a point of contact for parish councils over the last year. Along-side your district councillors, please look out for contacts from him.

Solar Energy Park Construction

Construction has begun on a pioneering renewable energy solar park to power the growing fleet of electric bin lorries for Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire. Due for completion by end of 2026, it is expected to supply 59% of the Waterbeach depot's total energy needs and achieve over 40% biodiversity net gain through measures such as wildflower planting and new hedgerows to create a haven for local wildlife. More details at <https://bit.ly/SolarEnergyPark>.

Financial Position and Budget

At the Council's budget meeting, members approved its business plan and budget for the coming financial year. The meeting agreed to a £5.24 increase for an average Band D property. This works out to 10p a week and below inflation rise.

The table below shows comparison of the different precepts charged across Cambridgeshire

- East Cambs £142.14 £1,785.42 £1,927.56
- Huntingdonshire £170.86 £1,785.42 £1,956.28
- South Cambs £180.64 £1,785.42 £1,966.06
- Cambridge £239.07 £1,785.42 £2,024.49
- Fenland £253.35 £1,785.42 £2,038.77
- Peterborough £1,836.72 £1,836.72

This doesn't include the police, fire, parish council or Mayor's precepts which are not set by SCDC but are collected by the council. It also doesn't include town and parish precepts (which in an increasing number of cases are now larger than the District Council's). As seen, South Cambridgeshire charges slightly more than Huntingdonshire DC, but significantly less than both Cambridge CC and Fenland DCs.

SCDC is one of the best run councils in the country and is often held up as an exemplar. It continues to deliver high quality services in the face of sustained cuts by central government, including recent reductions to the amount of Business Rates that local authorities can retain. Our core spending power is being cut by over £5 million over the next 3 years, thanks to the Government's "fair funding review 2.0" which is hurting councils in rural areas like ours. That drop is the equivalent to 15% of our core spending power.

As a result of the government's funding changes, we are increasingly reliant on council tax. In this budget - council tax represents 35% of our core spending power. Come 2028/29 - council tax will represent 47% of our core spending power.

We have council tax relief offering up to 100% relief from council tax for those residents who need it most. Even with the rise, South Cambridgeshire would remain among the lowest-taxing district councils in the country.

Low Income Family Tracker (LIFT)

Another proud initiative is the LIFT scheme, which was made permanent in the last year. The LIFT software interrogates the council's databases to identify residents living in South Cambridgeshire who are missing out on benefits that they are entitled to claim. A two-year apprentice role has been added to the scheme to make the most of the LIFT programme.

It's already done fantastic work for residents – helping over 1,000 residents so far to secure more than £4 million in benefits for local households.

Support Grant funding

South Cambs District Council has committed Service Support Grant funding of £300,000 a year to local community groups to underpin the delivery of services to support people with their mental health, independent living, advice services, and to help residents through the cost-of-living crisis.

The Service Support Grant funding has almost doubled compared to the previous budget, made possible by prudent management of the council's finances and a recognition of the acute need for these services.

East West Rail (EWR)

Finally this year, EWR has started communicating better. We were pleased that they finally listened to councillors, parish councils and MPs and decided to use a mined tunnel (not cut-and-cover) underneath A428, Bourn Airfield and Highfields Caldecote.

Corinne Garvie
Richard Stobart
12th May 2026

Appendix 4

Report on Edwards Wood (Townlands Trust) Dry Drayton for Parish Council May 2026

Last autumn the long grass in the meadow area under the pylons and around the entrance was cut by Jonathan Sunderland-Bragg using a tractor-mounted device. During the ensuing winter our woodland contractor Glenn Hadley has visited on three occasions to carry out further tree thinning. Many of these were trees stricken by ash dieback. The opening up of the wood allows more light to reach the ground and thereby promotes better growth of this layer, as well as allowing the remaining trees to attain their full potential. Following this work our magnificent village volunteers, assisted by those of the Cambridge Conservation Volunteers, stacked the logs and cut branches into neat piles. These will give refuge to small mammals, invertebrates such as beetles, and fungi as the piles slowly rot down.

In addition to these work parties, others have also concentrated on cutting back vegetation overhanging and encroaching on the rides. A short section of the inner blackthorn hedge near the Madingley Road entrance has also been cut down as an experiment to hopefully promote fresh regeneration as this hedge has never received any remedial work before.

The management group and trustees are very grateful to everyone, including the children, who turned up to help on the work parties.

The gate into the wood from Madingley Road has also been replaced as the old one had seized shut. This will allow vehicular access for work or emergency purposes in the future.

More casual wildlife records have been made although no further formal surveys were conducted last year. Regular water quality monitoring of the Beck Brook where it flows through the border of the wood has been started by a group of villagers, including one Year 6 pupil. This is being carried out in conjunction with a similar group from Histon and Impington who are monitoring the whole catchment area of this watercourse. Three people from the Histon group visited us and were shown round the wood and stream by the management group here. A return visit to Histon is planned for the future. Jointly with them we are seeking funding from South Cambs District Council for better monitoring equipment to study water quality in nine strategic places in the river catchment.

The Trust is also looking into replacements for the entrance footpath over the culverts into the wood as there are signs of degradation. We are currently thinking of a wooden footbridge which has a clear span. That would have the advantage of improving water flow and removing impediment to passage along this part of the brook by wildlife.

Following completion of a one day training course run by the Wildlife Trust on riverfly monitoring, I have sampled our brook for invertebrates and have found a good population of water shrimp, but no riverfly larvae, indicating only an average quality in biological terms. This sampling will be repeated at intervals in the future but it is unlikely the picture will change as the brook is subject to siltation and agricultural runoff from further upstream. On a more positive note it is believed we have water voles using the brook at times and we will endeavour to obtain confirmatory evidence of this.

Val Perrin
Townlands Trustee and Management Group member

Appendix 5

St Peter and St Paul's Church Annual Report

Being a presence in the community is at the heart of our vision of being a church for the whole community here in Dry Drayton. I would especially like to thank the Ministry Team: Sue, David, John and Lynda, who have been incredibly supportive and encouraging during the year, and who continue to be a joy to work with. A big thank you, too, to the PCC and to the wider church community for your continuing support and friendship. My thanks also to the Revd Priscilla Slusar for her continuing support and help throughout the year. I have enjoyed continuing to meet and getting to know people in and around the parish during my weekly visits to the school, or through dog walking, or through attending the hugely popular Village Coffee mornings each month.

St Peter and St Paul's Church maintained the monthly pattern of four Sunday services: Sung Evensong on the first Sunday, Holy Communion on the second and fourth Sundays, and All-Age Worship on the third Sunday. Forest Church on fourth Sundays in term time was held until the end of the academic year. Fifth Sundays provided us with the opportunity to participate in a Team-wide service and Dry Drayton hosted the Lordsbridge Team on Feast Day in June for a special sung communion service, led by Revd Claire Robertson and with guest preacher, Becca Herrick, and with a combined Lordsbridge Choir, led by Jeremy Wong. It was also a good opportunity to thank Becca for her hard work and dedication as our Team Administrator and to wish her well for her continuing ordination studies before she left the Team in July. Choral Evensong on the first Sunday of every month continues to be very popular and was consistently well attended throughout the year. Our thanks to Jeremy Wong (Organist and Choir Director) and to Martin Tester for coordinating each month's service. Our thanks also to Harry Coates, who helped direct the choir when Jeremy was unable to, and who regularly played the organ for Sunday services. The availability of 'Worship at Home' continued to be appreciated by some members of the church for times when they were unable to be at church in person.

In September the congregations of Dry Drayton and Hardwick along with Hardwick Evangelical Church worshipped together celebrating our joint Eco weekend, hosted in Hardwick in the beautiful grounds of the Cabin. It was wonderful to join together in worshipping God our creator, and Canon Sue gave a thought provoking and challenging sermon which inspired many there. Our annual Remembrance Service in November was well attended and the ecumenical, area-wide service to mark Christ the King was led this year by Revd Clare and the Lordsbridge Team at Comberton Leisure Centre. During Advent we followed a sermon series inspired by Handel's Messiah, focusing on Jesus's birth. Each week we heard a piece of music from Handel's most famous Oratorio and the Bible passages which inspired his beautiful and moving music. The series resumed in Lent 2026 and focused on Jesus's passion.

A well-attended and much enjoyed Carol Concert was held in mid-December with a combined choir from Dry Drayton and Coton, and again in excellent voice. Our Christmas Eve Crib Service was very popular and well attended again by local families and children. The children really enjoyed dressing up as sheep, shepherds, angels and even a donkey! It was wonderful to celebrate the Eucharist at both Midnight Mass, thanks to Revd Canon Sue, and on Christmas morning with Revd Lynda. Our thanks to the Wickham family for their beautiful musical accompaniment on both Easter and Christmas morning.

Our musical services and events were particularly well attended and enjoyed by all. The church has great acoustics and is a well appreciated venue in the local area. Music continues to be at the heart of our vision and outreach into the wider community, and these also helped our fundraising efforts. We are now becoming known as a musical venue in the wider area and groups such as the Orsino Singers, the Cambridge Chamber Collective, Harmonia Singers and Bassoon Fest are booking the church on a regular basis for their own concerts.

Forest Church, a service aimed at families and children and held outdoors in the churchyard, continued during 2025. Despite stormy and rainy weather during the year, we continued to meet monthly in term time. Several local families came and enjoyed exploring nature and worshipping God outdoors – and indoors when the

weather was too bad. However, taking stock at the end of the academic year, and taking into account the challenges of holding Forest Church each month, it was decided to take a break for the next academic year.

We continued to face financial challenges in 2025 and we are committed to continue working hard to meet the increasing financial demands. My grateful thanks to our Treasurer, our PCC and to all who have helped with the year's fundraising events and to all who have come and supported us. We are so grateful for that support. It has made a big difference. Our local church really matters to so many people and it is here for the whole community. It has been and will continue to be a powerful symbol of God's presence here in Dry Drayton.

At the beginning of 2025 I invited our church community to '*keep our eyes fixed on Jesus*' (Hebrews 12:2). This was with the expectation that as we focused on Jesus we would draw inspiration and strength from him, enabling us to change and grow, and deepen our faith. Keeping focused on Jesus means stepping out of our comfort zone and into the unknown, trusting that he will be with us on our continuing journey of faith. Focusing on Jesus means following his example and sharing his message of love, which is one for all people, regardless of their background. We cannot know where our continuing journey with God will take us but we can be certain that God who calls us is faithful. He has promised to be with us no matter what. There may be unexpected surprises – both good and bad. Anything is possible. But we can face everything together.

As a church community we are committed to being welcoming, inclusive, kind and caring, and to helping people in need. I feel very positive about everything we are doing together and I believe we will continue to grow and thrive. I am excited about what lies ahead for us in the years, ahead!

God Bless,
Clare

Appendix 6

Dry Drayton Village Hall Chairman's Report for 2025-26

Hello and welcome to the AGM

It's been my first year as the Chair and I can honestly say that I have enjoyed both the experience and contributing in a small way to village life. This is a wonderful place to live.

I want to start by thanking everyone who has contributed in any way to our success.

I'll start with the committee and Stephen Gardner for reviewing and approving the accounts. Also Rob, who still helps us with the accounts.

Anyone who has baked for or helped at a coffee morning, cleaning or opening up for our evening events and those who have hired the hall.

Because of your hard work and goodwill, the VH has had a good year, with some great community events. The Coffee Mornings in particular go from strength to strength. We keep breaking records for attendance.

Events like the Curry night and the Pizza, beer and music nights are going well. It's lovely to see so many people from the village support us and enjoy themselves while they do so.

Because of this and our regular bookings I'm delighted to say that we have made a modest profit of approximately £2,000 Adrian will give you the details later.

The official rules of the charity require us to aim for break even, but we need to save up some money for things like maintenance and repairs.

And it's just as well we have, because we will shortly see a roofing contractor starting work to replace the flat roof at the back of the hall and replace the roofing felt round the edge of the tiled section. This will cost us about £8,500 of our hard-earned savings.

We also had a full electrical condition survey done, which identified some safety issues. All of which have been rectified. We also brought some more chairs, to increase the seating capacity to 100. The way the coffee mornings are going, we needed more chairs.

The changes we've made to the rules of hire appear to have solved most of the problems with poor behaviour by the hirers of the hall. I can't remember anyone making a complaint in the last year.

David Alexander, April 2026

Appendix 7

Item for Dry Drayton Annual Parish Meeting 2026 item 7

I have been asked to provide a report on the Dry Drayton website for 2025/26

www.drydrayton.net is an independent community website for the village. The site was built after the completion of the "DryDrayton2000" local distinctiveness project, which had produced a village history, village map and footpath guide. The website is now in its 25th year of operation. Over the last year the site received 55,000 visits. I have funded the site since its inception and it remains a free local non-commercial service.

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 printed Village Newsletter and an archive of the last year's newsletters. There is also a good selection of local history material.

Users can sign up on the site for a free Dry Drayton news and information e-mail service. This is used mainly to circulate local items which crop up between quarterly issues of the printed Village Newsletter. E-mails are circulated as and when information is available, rather than on a regular basis. There have been 51 such circulations in the last year (up slightly from 47 the previous year) to a mailing list of just over 200.

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

Les Waters
webmaster@drydrayton.net

Appendix 8

Dry Drayton C of E Primary School, and Pre-school May 2026

We have had another busy, but exciting year as we have taken over the governance and running of the pre-school. This involved a tremendous amount of time and work over six months by both the Little Owl Committee and school staff and governors to be ready for the new start at the beginning of 2026. We are now called Dry Drayton C of E Primary School, and Pre-school. Huge thanks to all those involved in supporting this.

Staff in school and pre-school work closely together and we are all happy with the new look preschool under the care of Susan Phillips, the lead practitioner. The numbers are growing, but we still have places. Please let anyone you know who may be interested in sending their child here to contact the office for a visit or to register. We take children after they have turned two. Pre-school children enjoy joining the rest of the school for our delicious lunches. Having said goodbye to Mrs King after nearly 5 years as catering manager, the mantle has been continued by Mrs Clark. Both have transformed our school meals!

School is also flourishing as our numbers have reached 70 this term. Last June we had our long awaited for SIAMs inspection (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) which we have in addition to an OFSTED inspection. Our inspector was very sympathetic to our being a small school and wrote a glowing report. These quotes sum up his visit:

Forming caring relationships between pupils, staff and parents is a high priority in school. As a result, pupils feel valued, enabling them to thrive and actively help each other and their wider community. Leaders, including governors, promote the vision to create an ethos where everyone is cherished and supported for their own worth. The school's vision to outwardly show love and care shapes a culture where everyone feels valued and respected. The vision motivates pupils to bring about change in their school and community. By outwardly and ambitiously demonstrating love and care, pupils are inspired to help others. They are beginning to make ethical choices and consider the impact of climate change. Pupils learn about stewardship through projects that reduce energy use and explore climate-affected countries. The overflowing of love for others in the school and local community is palpable.

The works to complete the installation of solar panels and air source heat pumps (via grants from Cambridgeshire County Council and central government) are almost complete and we hope to reap the benefits of reduced fuels bills especially since we have had such a sunny spring! The children have enjoyed the updates on this project and we all hope to feel warmer next winter! The school Eco Committee have reminded us how we can conserve electricity and water.

Reading continues to be a strength in the school and so we are grateful for the S&VA support to purchase resources.

Community support continues through our Governors and from Revd Clare and the St Peter and St Paul Church team. We appreciated PC support with the request for repainting of the zigzag markings and double yellow lines outside school in Park Street. Children were involved in gathering opinions from the local residents, all in a bid to help to keep them safe travelling to and from school.

We are very happy for anyone from the village to attend our events in the church with the up-and coming Summer Music concert on Thursday 18th June at 1:45pm.

Sonia Hegan

Head teacher