

Draft until signed
Minutes of Dry Drayton Parish Council (DDPC) Meeting
Tuesday 14th January 2020 at 8pm, Dry Drayton Village Hall

Present: S Lander (Chair), J Dolan (JD) (Vice-Chair), E Pyle (EP) (Councillor), K Cullen (KC) (Councillor), T Houlihane (TSH) (Councillor), F Peck (FP) (Councillor)

Attending: S Etherington-Meech (SEM) (Clerk/RFO), Cllr T Bygott (TB) (District Councillor), Emily Bolton (EB) (Cambridgeshire County Council – Energy Projects Officer), 3 members of the public

1. To Accept Apologies for Absence

Cllr Miller, Cllr Harford & Cllr DeLacey

2. To Accept Parish Councillors Declarations of Interest for Matters on the Agenda

FP declared an interest in Item 8 a) iii) – Planning Application for Rectory Farm

EP declared an interest in Item 8 a) vii) – Planning Application for 1 Cottons Field

3. Guest Speaker – Cambridgeshire County Council – To discuss and answer questions in relation to the Climate Change Strategy Consultation that closes on 31st January 2020

SL introduced EB, she explained she was from the Energy Investment Unit at Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) whom have been tasked with drawing up a Climate Change and Environment Strategy further to the declaration of a climate change and environment emergency in 2019. It has been declared for many reasons with mounting pressure for councils to take action, CCC has acknowledged its role to ensure quality of life for residents, making Cambridgeshire a good place to reside and acknowledging that it is a caretaker for future generations, and climate change impedes all these aims. EB advised that the strategy outlines what CCC intend to do and the online consultation is a way to receive feedback such as thoughts on the strategy, what it may be missing, highlighting of any conflicts with parishes/businesses, information of barriers etc.

EB explained that two carbon footprints have been drawn up. The first one has been together with the University of Cambridge and been put together for the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough region using government greenhouse gas emission data, which is robust giving a carbon footprint of 6.1 million tonnes of carbon dioxide, omitted in the region predominately through transport, commercial services and industry and 7% through agriculture. It has also been modelled as to what it would take to get to net zero by 2050 which is incredibly ambitious as zero is not possible, however 0.6 million tonnes per year is more achievable. These figures do not include emission from peatland, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough hold 4% of the countries peatland area, which is significant and it is estimated that peatlands could double carbon emissions for the county if they were included in the data, the peatlands are emphasised throughout the strategy.

The second carbon footprint is for the county itself as an organisation, with a carbon footprint of 94,000 tonnes of carbon. The majority was shown from waste management such as landfill, processing, recycling etc. However, EB highlighted that CCC will be unable to make changes on their own and will need engagement from partners and individuals for example for CCC to have less waste to process individuals' choices and actions will need to reflect this aim.

EB explained that using all the evidence gathered has meant that targets can be set and also the council can acknowledge that they cannot do everything, hence why a consultation is relevant in order to hear from residents to align priorities and highlight how support can be provided for each other. The consultation runs until 31st January 2020, results will then be analysed and integrated in the strategy document in order to go to full council in March 2020, hopefully to be approved into council policy. CCC are aligning with the government net zero target by 2050, they understand it is ambitious so have set some interim targets and a review is set for 2025.

EB described the 7 targets of the strategy:

1. The government target of net zero by 2050
2. To reduce the organisational carbon footprint for buildings and transport by 50% by 2023 and 100% by 2025

3. Ensure all Cambridgeshire councils are implementing climate change adaptation into their service delivery
4. Deliver net 20% increase in biodiversity across all of council property, land, projects and wildlife sites.
5. Reduce council emissions from purchased goods and service by 50% by 2030
6. Ensure all strategies include some aspect of climate change adaptations, mitigation and environmental enhancement – to be embedded in operation.
7. Share a set of shared targets with partners such as district councils, business, parishes, communities to deliver 50% greenhouse gas emission reduction by 2030

SL asked EB how parishes can assist with the consultation and she advised that information is required, CCC need feedback. EB advised that she was attending in order to encourage parish councils and individuals to respond to the consultation. Full details of the consultation can be viewed at the following link <https://consultcambs.uk.engagementhq.com/climate-strategy> where a survey can also be completed.

EB explained that the priority areas of the strategy have been split into two sections. Firstly, where the council can act directly and implement soon such as council buildings, waste management and transport infrastructure, all which are within CCC remit particularly with them being the largest landowner in the county, they have significant scope for impact. The second is matters that are outside of direct CCC remit such as peatland, which will be involving engagement with farmers to find alternative ways of doing things in order to achieve reductions. There is also consideration for green spaces and how they can be improved, with doubling nature vision and working with all partners such as district councils, the Greater Cambridge Partnership and the combined authority on air pollution. This priority area is to be an integrated joined up approach to ensure best outcomes are reached. The public questioned the exact costings of the strategy, EB advised that there are no exact costings currently and integration into the council budget will occur, this is currently being finalised.

One thing TB highlighted is the lack of electric cars and charging points currently in the region, advising that in his ward there is only one public electric charging point and that is just for Tesla's. EB explained that there is currently no revenue return and a business model is trying to be created to overcome this issue. Individuals are able to get a grant and if parish councils are interested in installing a charge point grants are available through the energy saving trust with funding pots heavily undersubscribed.

4. To Agree to hold a Public Forum

The public advised that the highest user for the village hall is the village bridge club which has been running for over 25 years and has around 50 members, members of the bridge club have come forward to offer support to the village hall management committee.

5. To Approve the Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 3rd December 2019

Minutes were signed by the chair as a true and accurate copy of the meeting.

6. Matters Arising from the Minutes, Report of any actions and Resolutions from last meeting -

Appendix 1

- a. This item is still ongoing
- b. SL advised that the contract and direct debit have now been submitted to Haven
- c. This item is ongoing for SL to action
- d. SL is to discuss with Cllr Harford and draw up a questionnaire for residents to complete
- e. Park Lane verges have now been cleared and all other items are ongoing
- f. RESOLVED
- g. RESOLVED
- h. This is an ongoing item, JD advised that there has been some interest from residents
- i. Clerk has emailed CAPALC for further information – ongoing
- j. This item is still ongoing, no quotation received yet. **Action** – Clerk to send a letter of thanks and acknowledgement of services to Rod Scammell.
- k. SL advised that this is now cleared. RESOLVED
- l. RESOLVED – This is on the agenda
- m. RESOLVED – SL, JD and SEM all have online access to Lloyds bank account
- n. This item is still ongoing

7. To Accept a Report from County and District Councillors

Cllr Harford Report was circulated via email – see Appendix 3

Cllr DeLacey Report was circulated via email – see Appendix 4

Cllr Bygott advised that he is to forward over a report. He advised that the village sign is still an ongoing issue that has been going on for 3-4 months with no outcome.

8. To Discuss Planning Matters

a. Applications received for consideration

- i. **S/4224/19/DC & S/4390/19/DC – Church Farm, Park St CB23 8DZ – Discharge of conditions for S/3939/18/PA - Condition 2 (Contamination), Condition 4 (Biodiversity), Condition 9 (Traffic Management Plan), Condition 10 (Long Term Management Plan)**

DDPC unanimously agreed for no comments to be made for Condition 2, 4 and 9 and that this should be left to the discretion of professionals at SCDC. However, in relation to condition 10 DDPC felt that it ought to be noted that resident parking should form part of the transfer. **Action** – Clerk to submit comments to SCDC

- ii. **S/4231/19/DC – Church Farm, Park St CB23 8DZ – Discharge of conditions for S/4245/18/FL – Condition 3 (Biodiversity Plan) & Condition 4 (Arboricultural Method Statement)**

DDPC unanimously agreed to that they had no objections or comments for this application.

- iii. **S/4474/19/PA – Rectory Farm, New Road CB23 8AS – Prior approval for change of use of agricultural building to dwelling house (Class C3) and for building operations reasonably necessary for the conversion**

FP left the room due to a declared interest in this item. DDPC discussed this application and unanimously agreed for the following comments to be submitted to SCDC. DDPC raised concern that the dwelling is used for permanent long-term residential use and not as a holiday let(s), that there appears to be a lack of amenity land and that associated parking would be required at the property. **Action** – Clerk to submit comments to SCDC

- iv. **S/4318/19/DC – 65 Pettitts Lane CB23 8BT – Discharge of condition 10 (surface water drainage) of planning permission S/4554/17/OL for outline application with all matters reserved apart from access for construction of up to 10 dwelling houses and associated infrastructure and works**

DDPC unanimously objected to the discharge of this condition due to a lack of specific details of the management plan, and how this will serve the needs of the residents. **Action** – Clerk to submit comments to SCDC

- v. **S/4087/19/VC – Land at 65 Pettitts Lane CB23 8BT – Variation of condition 1 (Approved Plans) pursuant to planning permission S/3447/18/RM**

It was agreed unanimously for the previous comments submitted in October 2019 should be resubmitted for this application. **Action** – Clerk to resubmit comments.

- vi. **S/4334/19/DC – 65 Pettitts Lane CB23 8BT – Discharge of condition 6 (tree protection) of planning permission S/4554/17/OL for outline application with all matters reserved apart from access for construction of up to 10 dwelling houses and associated infrastructure and works**

The same concern was raised by DDPC for this application in that the application is lacking in specific details. **Action** – Comments to be submitted to SCDC

SL advised DDPC that a letter was sent to the Head of Planning at SCDC at the beginning of January 2020 in regard to 65 Pettitts Lane. The letter expressed DDPC concerns regarding the site and the manner in which site activity has been undertaken without the required planning conditions having been met and in fact when they have specifically been refused. It was advised that no response has yet been received regarding this letter so it was agreed that all the comments relating to 65 Pettitts Lane on the agenda should be collated into one letter and sent over to SCDC together with a request for a response and acknowledgement of all comments and letters submitted.

- vii. **S/3465/19/FL – 1 Cottons Field CB23 8DG – Removal of current surrounding hedgerow and replacing with a 1.8m fence – Comments already submitted 13/11/19 (resubmitted 13/12/19) – No need to discuss**
 - b. **Decisions received from South Cambs District Council**
 - i. **S/4178/19/TP – Keepers End, Scotland Rd CB23 8BX – TPO 0015 (1966) W10: T7 – 2 x Hawthorn – trees in poor condition with sparse foliage and die back – Approval given on 20/12/19 to remove and replant with more suitable child friendly species**
 - ii. **S/3310/19/DC - 65 Pettitts Lane CB23 8BT - Discharge of Conditions 10 (Drainage) of planning permission S/4554/17/OL – Refused and resubmitted S/4318/19/DC**
 - iii. **S/3361/19/DC – 65 Pettitts Lane CB23 8BT - Discharge of condition 12 (Contractor Parking) & 14(Traffic Management Plan) pursuant to outline planning permission S/4554/17/OL – Refused**
- 9. Matters for discussion/correspondence received**
- a. **Cambridgeshire County Council – Climate Change Strategy Consultation – Comments for the consultation to be discussed and agreed**
A unanimous decision was reached by DDPC that no comments are to be submitted for this consultation from DDPC, although councillors and the public are able to submit individual comments if desired.
 - b. **Feedback from Cllr Lander re: meeting regarding LHI application 2020/21 and raise any items to be included for the report for the panel meeting on 16th January 2020**
SL informed DDPC that he was notified that this meeting will not now go ahead and has been postponed until February 2020. SL requested that councillors forward him any information they would like him to include in his report for the panel meeting.
 - c. **To discuss ways of preventing flooding in Park Lane/Madingley Road**
DDPC discussed this matter and advised that the landowner would need to be contacted to arrange for their ditch to be dug out. **Action** – KC/FP to enquire as to whom the landowner is and SL to contact them once they are known.
 - d. **To discuss a village, clean up due to an accumulation of rubbish around the village**
SL advised that he regularly observes a resident in the village clearing up rubbish and he feels it is unfair for one person to carry this task out and all residents ought to be called upon for their support. A post on the parish Facebook page was suggested. FP advised that she is currently running an initiative through the stables for people to collect rubbish in the parish. JD raised an issue of rubbish flying out of the refuse collection vans and then not being picked up and SL also advised of 2 bags of rubbish being dumped outside the church. **Action** – JD to publicise for volunteers for a village clean up.
 - e. **Acknowledgment and thanks to past parish council members and those who have served the village**
SL proposed this item and all councillors agreed. It was discussed that due to the amount of work and time David Wyatt has provided to the parish council this should be acknowledged and for him to be nominated for a Buckingham Palace Garden Party that recognises the work of previous chairs of councils. **Action** – SL to submit the nomination form for David Wyatt
 - m. **(b/f) Councillor contact details and allocation of responsibilities for council members**
SL brought this item forward and advised DDPC that he is very busy, and it is difficult to carry out all the tasks he is allocated and there is now a need to allocate responsibilities to other councillors to assist the smooth running of the council. EP nominated herself to become a representative for DDPC for the Village Hall Management Committee, TSH & SL agreed to take on planning, KC agreed to take on trees and footpaths, JD agreed to take on IT/communication and FP agreed to assist in any village based issues.
 - f. **Discussion of the current state and repair of roads/footpaths and blocked drains in the village**
SL advised that this is a constant problem and urged both the public and DDPC to keep reporting any issue using the online reporting tools and provide photographic/video evidence if possible.
 - g. **To discuss the potential implications of having no administration group for the Village Hall Management Committee**

It is believed that volunteers may come forward now to join the committee. KC advised that he is happy to assist with any handyman jobs and the opening and closing of the village hall and EP has volunteered to represent the parish council on the committee.

- h. **To discuss the recruitment of more volunteers for Speed Watch**
SL advised that it is proving difficult to provide speed watch data for the LHI application panel meeting and more people need to be encouraged to join the speed watch team, there are only currently 3-4 people on the team. A minimum of 3 volunteers are required but ideally 12 volunteers would be able to run it efficiently. **Action** – SL/JD to discuss the situation with the current speed watch team.
- i. **To discuss the current Village Hall rental rates charged to DDPC**
This is an ongoing issue that JD has offered to investigate.
- j. **To discuss a review of rental rates at the village allotment**
Ongoing issue deferred to February meeting.
- k. **To discuss play amenity in the parish**
Ongoing issue deferred to February meeting.
- l. **Freaky Friday Grant Request**
SL advised that he has received the annual grant request from Freaky Friday for £500.00. SL proposed and a unanimous decision was made to grant the £500.00 grant. **Action** – Payment to be added to payments to hand for the next agenda and SL to forward SEM over the grant request.
- n. **To discuss a programme for 2020/21**
Deferred to February meeting.
- o. **To advise of the opening of Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire Archives from 2nd Jan 2020**
Email was circulated to councillors prior to the meeting. Clerk explained that she was handed over lots of filing and archiving paperwork when she took over the clerk role last year and once time is found it needs sorting, binding and taking to the newly opened archives. DDPC understand and they are happy for clerk to claim extra hours for this task.
- p. **Greater Cambridge Local Plan Issues and Options – Consultation open to all, roadshows to be announced- 13th January – 24th February 2020**
This consultation is open to all including residents. DDPC unanimously agreed to not comment on this consultation.
- q. **To discuss SCDC- Three Free Trees for Parishes Scheme – Deadline 14th March 2020**
SL proposed and all councillors agreed for an application to be submitted for this scheme. **Action** – EP to complete application and KC to plant the trees once purchased.

10. Finance and Policy

- a. **To accept account review to date and bank reconciliation**
The finance spreadsheet and bank reconciliation were circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting, no queries were raised. SL signed the bank reconciliation (see Appendix 2) and KC signed the bank statement as an original copy.
- b. **To advise of payments received – None received**
- c. **To approve the following payments to hand**
 - i. **S Etherington-Meech – Clerks Overtime & Expenses – £126.30**
 - ii. All councillors agreed payment RESOLVED. It was agreed for SEM, SL and JD to use this payment as a sample for online banking payments. *Local Government Act (LGA) 1972, s. 112.* **Action** – Clerk to initiate payment in order for SL and JD to authorise.
 - iii. **Red Shoes Accounting – Payroll Services - £43.20** – All councillors agreed payment RESOLVED. Cheque Number 1213 signed by SL and EP. *LGA 1972, s.112.*
 - iv. **Cambridgeshire County Council – Speed watch signs and erection - £497.24** – After receiving confirmation from CCC that DDPC authorised these works all councillors agreed payment RESOLVED. Cheque Number 1210 signed by SL and EP. *Parish Councils Act 1957, section 3; Highways Act 1980, section 301.*
 - v. **Brookfield Groundcare – Grass Cut (10 of 10) - £360.00** - All councillors agreed payment RESOLVED. Cheque number 1214 signed by SL and EP. *Public Health Act 1875, s.164 & Open Spaces Act 1906, ss.9-10 & s.15.*

vi. **Brookfield Groundcare – Park Lane Hedge Works - £696.00** - All councillors agreed payment RESOLVED. Cheque number 1215 signed by SL and EP. *Public Health Act 1875, s.164 & Open Spaces Act 1906, ss.9-10 & s.15.*

d. **To finalise the budget and precept (submission deadline 20/01/20) for 2020/21**

The final figures agreed at the last parish council meeting were circulated to the councillors before the meeting. All councillors agreed to the final budget and it was also agreed that the precept should be set at a figure of £14,949.00. The precept has gradually reduced annually from £14,250.00 in 2017/18, £13,287.00 in 2018/19 and £11,304.00 in 2019/20. It was agreed by DDPC that expenditure is increasing and that the figure should be set above the 2017/18 figure with inflation increase included to cover all the additional expenditures that need to be made.

e. **Lloyds bank agreement for signatories/access to the account/online banking progression**

SL and JD have full banking authority and online banking access and SEM has delegate user authority with online banking access. Three of the councillors are not signatories on the account but it was agreed that a review of bank signatories, access and online banking should be carried out soon.

f. **Expiry of Microsoft Office package for the clerk**

Clerk advised DDPC that she has received notification from Microsoft that the office package for the laptop has expired and she has received a renewal reminder for £59.99 for one computer. JD proposed and all councillors agreed that the clerk should renew the annual payment for £59.99. RESOLVED. **Action** – Clerk to renew Office package

11. To accept notices and matter for the next agenda

- a. Windows at the Old Rectory
- b. Village Gate

12. Date and time of next meeting – Tuesday 25th February 2020 at 8pm

EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

That in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the public and press be excluded, and they are instructed to withdraw, Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960.

13. Staff Issues

- a. **Clerks annual appraisal**
Appraisal carried out and appraisal form completed
- b. **To discuss pension arrangements for the clerk**
Item deferred – SL to investigate further

Meeting closed at 10.28pm

Appendix 1

Action Report/Ongoing Issues

a.	Hedge cutting/ownership and boundaries of surrounding properties for the Former Methodist Church/Chapel (ongoing)	SL
b.	Streetlighting energy supply to be set up with new supplier Haven (ongoing)	SEM
c.	Woodland Trust tree application for free trees to be completed (ongoing)	SL
d.	Oak Crescent Parking Issues/LHI application/consultation (ongoing)	SL/LH
e.	Park Lane Verges/Cycle path upgrade/line painting/drainage (ongoing)	LH/SL
f.	Land at Pettitts Lane – drainage comment submission and biodiversity discharge objections and comments submission	SEM
g.	CCC – Climate Change Strategy Consultation – Attendee invitation for Jan meeting	SEM
h.	Village Hall Management Committee – marketing/action plan/processes investigation	JD/SEM
i.	Arrangement of new councillor training	SEM
j.	Rod Scammell resignation – quotation from Brookfield (SM)/exact location & frequency and grass cutting reimbursement query for CC (SL)	SM/SL
k.	Ditch blockage at Bar Hill nature reserve – cleared/landowner response	SL
l.	CCC – speed watch sign invoice – further details	SEM
m.	Lloyds (online access JD)/Cambridge Building Society (change of details)	SEM/SL/JD
n.	Cambridgeshire Building Society Account – Change of signatories/address etc	SL

Appendix 2

DRY DRAYTON PARISH COUNCIL
December 2019 Bank Reconciliation

	£
Lloyds TSB current account at 30 th November 2019	£19,205.40
<u>Less</u> payments presented from 30 th November 2019 to 30 th December 2019 <i>1 standing order and 4 cheques</i>	£1,067.85
<u>Plus</u> , receipts presented from 30 th November 2019 to 30 th December 2019	£161.00
Closing bank account at 30 th December 2019	£18,298.55
<u>Less outstanding cheques not yet subtracted</u>	£497.24
Balance carried forward at 30th December 2019	£17,801.31

<i>Plus</i> , NS&I Investment Account at 1 January 2019	£5,132.97	
CBS S106 Account at 1 January 2019	<u>£7,008.05</u>	
		£29,942.33

Notes:

Sarah Etherington-Meech

RFO

14th January 2020

Appendix 3

Cambridgeshire County Councillor's Report Bar Hill Division Parish Councils - January 2020 meetings

As we embark on 2020 as one of the County Divisions that has been particularly affected by the work to upgrade the A14, I'm sure that we are all hoping that the project stays on schedule and that, by the end of the year, the trials of the four years that the work has taken to complete will be at an end.

Once the upgrade is completed the County Council will be required to adopt a number of the assets that will no longer be the responsibility of Highways England [HE]. This changeover includes a total of approximately 27km of dual carriageway and 5km of slip roads which were part of the original A14 and are being de-trunked, and sections of new or improved local roads like the A1307 that will interface with the new A14. Already a Council team is working alongside a HE team to inspect the new/additional assets to ensure that they meet the necessary standards for adoption. This process will be subject to much negotiation and we must hope that County Officers prove to be the ones who don't blink first as obviously this increases the financial burden on the Council. A legal agreement, part of the Development Consent Order, requires a handover plan to be agreed with the Council specifying the condition of the roads to be handed over. This includes any improvement work that HE will carry out before handover or for which it will provide the funding for the Council to carry out [which must be less advantageous for the Council]. The handover date that all are currently working to is 31 December 2020 but [sigh] as with so much else the final approval of a handover date rests with the Secretary of State. The Council is also concerned about the impact that diversion routes have had on the condition of local roads for which it already has maintenance responsibility. It is currently putting together the case for compensation for some of the damage this has caused, and I shall be submitting details of local issues to be included. The way in which DfT funding is allocated to local authorities is complex and presents various challenges to the Council as it seeks to secure adequate and fair funding to maintain its highways infrastructure. Currently, without any of the additional responsibilities that it will have to take on, it requires £19m a year simply to maintain its road network in a 'stand still' condition. Increasingly Shire County authorities are highlighting the inequity of funding and it has recently been reported that urban areas like London receive as much as three times the funding that rural areas do.

The other issue that is still under discussion is the allocation of money from the legacy fund. In recognition of the disruption that has been caused by the A14 works, HE set up a legacy fund of £3m to contribute towards a variety of projects across a number of different areas. As a result of difficult questions that I have asked about progress on the bids for funding that 28 parishes were invited to make last year, HE seems to have been at pains to provide details of what it has spent some of the fund money on. One of the most recent grants is actually to the County Council's Historic Environment team. This £130,000 will be added to a grant of £560,000 from HE Designated Funds Programme to fund a Heritage Centre at Northstowe. Additionally, HE seems to have conceded that some of the remaining money in the legacy fund will be made available to the County Council for remedial works to some of the roads that have been negatively impacted by the A14 scheme. Whilst I acknowledge that this will be a benefit to local communities, I am still perplexed as to how it fits with the funding of the projects that parishes were invited to bid for. If I have missed something and any one of the parishes in our division has had positive news about its bid, perhaps you will let me know. The vice chairman of Economy & Environment committee [the

one which is responsible for all matters relating to the A14] has confirmed that “it continues to prove difficult for the County Council to obtain information about the selection criteria of the parishes and the projects, the amounts of money provided to the individual parishes and what the current status of the fund is”. He has though said that HE will be releasing a detailed briefing note on this shortly. I foresee more difficult questions.....

Locally, Girton has finally seen the long awaited resurfacing of the road adjacent the pavilion. This is of course a private road so not a responsibility of County Highways and my challenge all along has been to ensure that County Estates should deliver its responsibility for maintenance which it has now done.

Also in Girton, Taylor Wimpey’s contractor has now commenced the work required to allow adoption of the roads on the Wellbrook Way development.

I am hoping to secure funding for some much needed work to be carried out in this financial year to the spine road in Bar Hill. There is an area between Hillcrest and Appletrees where deterioration has prompted residents’ concerns about safety. I am awaiting the engineer’s report following a recent inspection. I am also scheduling a meeting with Highways Officers to investigate persistent flooding issues in all of our villages.

Final comment on roads - a heads up: the LHI application window for 2021/22 may be brought forward to March so please be prepared. This hasn’t been confirmed but it might be a good idea to start thinking about what project you want to put forward.

On 16 December, the Council’s Chief Executive accompanied by both its Leader and Chairman participated in the ground-breaking ceremony at Alconbury Weald for the new Civic Hub which will replace Shire Hall. Construction of the new building is still on budget at £18.3m and the opening date is now set for Spring 2021. The predicted saving for the Council of its relocation is £1.5m every year.

At its final meeting of 2019, Council approved for public consultation its draft Climate Change & Environment Strategy and accompanying action plan. Priority areas for climate change mitigation [reduction of the Council’s carbon footprint] are improving energy efficiency, installing low carbon heating and other renewable energy sources in Council buildings; prioritising walking, cycling and public transport and supporting the use of electric vehicles as well as waste management strategies to reduce carbon and planting trees. Priorities set for adapting to climate change include planning and risk management across all its services; resilience of the Council’s own buildings and staff; work on flood risk management and support for vulnerable people in severe weather or extreme temperatures. The Council will also strive to restore and/or create natural habitats; develop planning policy to reflect strategic and local objectives for countryside enhancement and green infrastructure; continue its environmental stewardship as part of managing its rural estate and reduce reliance on single use plastics in its goods and services. The targets that have been set include both those that can be achieved by the Council alone and those that will require collaboration with partners and communities. Agenda pack: <http://bit.ly/2Tqem2F>

I hope that you all had a very happy and restful Christmas. My very best wishes to you all for 2020; doubtless the challenges will continue and I look forward to working with you all to address them.

lyndaharford@icloud.com;
01954 251775 or 07889 131022

Follow me on Twitter: @2Whit2Whoo

Appendix 4

Report from District Councillor Douglas de Lacey
6. 1. 2020

The Joint Development Control Committee has had a very interesting briefing on problems of contaminated land at Wing. The contamination is a result of firefighting chemicals (PFAS: polyfluoroalkyl substances) and is a problem not encountered before by us or even by the EA. The applicants are working on the problem. We then had a tricky decision about extending the working hours of a waste collection centre in the City, and briefings on the Wing school and a proposed 'South West Travel Hub' which we agreed is merely a Park and Ride in all but name, and one which prioritises the car above other travel modes.

On 19 December I held a Reception for the SCDC staff and officers. With the help of my Vice-Chair I awarded prizes for the best-dressed Christmas desks, I joined a group of singers for karaoke carols, and we served mulled wine and mince pies. The enthusiastic participation suggests that this is an important part of encouraging our colleagues and maintaining morale.

I recently noticed a small fly-tip which our officers have now removed. You may be aware of the Council's latest attempt to tackle fly-tipping via a poster which seeks to play on the conscience of the offender. Sadly I believe that most fly-tipping is done consciously and cynically and I doubt this campaign will meet much success. Meanwhile please report any fly-tipping you encounter to refuse@scambs.gov.uk or to me.

Three consultations are open for your comments this month:

Network Rail is consulting from 20 January on a new station at the biomedical campus: details at <https://www.networkrail.co.uk/running-the-railway/our-routes/anglia/cambridge-south-station/> (or <https://tinyurl.com/twl3sys>).

Our own consultation on the issues and options for the new Local Plan starts on 13 January when details should be available via <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/consultations/>

There you can also find details of the revised version of the taxi licensing strategy which closes at the end of the month.

The Greater Cambridge Partnership is going out to public consultation shortly on proposals for walking and cycling improvements on Madingley Road. More details as I have them, but I shall be attending a Councillors' briefing shortly.

Finally, SCDC has a New Year offer to Parish Councils: a voucher for 3 trees (and all necessary accoutrements) to be planted in each Parish. Please contact Emma.Dyer@scambs.gov.uk for details and to obtain your trees.

Douglas de Lacey