

Draft until signed
Minutes of Dry Drayton Parish Council (DDPC) Meeting
Tuesday 19th May 2020, via virtual Zoom meeting online

Present: S Lander (SL) (Chair), J Dolan (JD) (Vice-Chair), E Pyle (EP) (Councillor), T Houlihan (TSH) (Councillor)

Attending: S Etherington-Meech (SEM) (Clerk/RFO), Cllr L Harford (LH) (County Councillor), Cllr D Delacey (DDL) (District Councillor), Cllr T Bygott (TB) (District Councillor), 2 members of the public

1. To Accept Apologies for Absence

Apology received from Cllr Peck

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

JD declared an interest in Item 7. a) ii) – Planning - The Flat, 3a Old Rectory Drive

3. To Agree to hold a Public Forum

Due to another engagement, SL invited DDL to present his report at the beginning of the public forum (see Appendix 2 for report). In addition to his report DDL advised that the enforcement team at the district council is already small and last week a member of their team, William Trotter died very suddenly. DDL highlighted that he is aware that the development at 65 Pettitts Lane has been contentious for DDPC and the residents in the parish, SCDC and himself are aware of the problems and will do their best to ensure that the properties are built to the approved plans.

A member of the public highlighted an email he sent to the chairman regarding works starting at the rear of 65 Pettitts Lane, advising that planners have approved building traffic management and site management plans, however, questioning if any future breaches of these plans such as with site deliveries outside permitted times or contractors vehicles parked on the road occur, who should it be reported to and what actions might follow. SL advised that 65 Pettitts Lane will be an ongoing concern for residents and that DDPC will continue to observe developments at the site.

4. To Approve the Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 25th February 2020

The meeting due to be held on 7th April 2020 was postponed whilst emergency temporary legislation was put in place by the Government following Covid-19 lockdown. The legislation came into force on Saturday 4th April 2020.

All councillors approved the minutes as a true and accurate copy of the meeting with no amendments to be made. SL to sign minutes when possible.

5. Matters Arising from the Minutes, Report of any actions and Resolutions from last meeting – See Appendix 1

- (a) SL advised that an application cannot be completed as confirmation of a specific landowner and land reference are required, however, if a piece of land is identified in the future an application can then be considered.
- (b) This item was discussed as an agenda item
- (c) LH commented in her report that negotiations with a landowner are still ongoing for the cycleway, LH has tried chasing, however, with the current pandemic progress is slow. LH advised that in regard to the flooding at Park Lane James Broder at Highways confirmed this was a longstanding issue, he will get it jetted and investigate the cause and if it is not too expensive he will rectify the problem. SL confirmed that line painting and drainage are ongoing issues and some works are scheduled by Highways on Scotland Road.
- (d) It was confirmed that the Village Hall Management Committee meeting at the end of March did not take place and that there is no progress due to the current crisis at present. LH advised that Lolworth Village Hall received a £10k loan for lost income, SL is to encourage the management committee at the village hall to apply.
- (e) TSH attended a new councillor training day on 14th March 2020, CAPALC are to arrange virtual councillor training sessions over the forthcoming months, JD, FP, and KC are still to attend new councillor training – ongoing issue.

- (f) SL confirmed that he now has the grass cutting map for the parish and although Brookfield Groundcare are still cutting the grass they are unable to arrange a meeting due to the current crisis in order to discuss additional works – ongoing issue.
- (g) This is an ongoing issue that cannot be dealt with due to the Covid-19 crisis.
- (h) No update – ongoing issue.
- (i) A village clean up has not been possible due to the current crisis.
- (j) RESOLVED
- (k) The Village Hall has now confirmed that this item is RESOLVED.
- (l) This is an ongoing issue as the village Speed watch team are unable to go out in the current Covid-19 crisis.
- (m) TSH advised that he investigated the boundary and fencing at Cotton Fields and it appears that the fence is probably where it should be and that the real issue is the planting outside of the fence which partly appears to have died. TSH stated that risk of possession does not appear to be an issue but DDPC need to consider what they would like done with the piece of exposed earth. EP believes that new resident should be moving in shortly and it was agreed for a note to be put through the door to request that contact is made in order for the area to be cleaned up and grass returned to the outside of the fence. Ongoing issue. **Action** – TSH to draft a note and post through door.

SEM raised a few further outstanding issues

- There is still one councillor vacancy.
- SEM queried whether the revised allotment rates had been published in the newsletter and JD advised they had not yet although the allotment holders were aware of the increase. **Action** – JD to send new allotment rates to the newsletter for publication as soon as possible.
- It was confirmed that the tree of footpath 8 had been removed - RESOLVED
- EP confirmed that the free three trees were purchased and have been planted – RESOLVED
- Investigation into the windows at the Old Rectory is an ongoing issue.
- The VE day celebrations could not be discussed due to the Covid-19 crisis.
- SEM had an action point to complete paperwork for EP to have access to online banking, however, SEM advised she had not had an opportunity to process this – ongoing issue.

6. To Accept a Report from County and District Councillors

- LH – see Appendix 3 for report
- TB advised that refuse is trying but cannot guarantee to empty bins on a fortnightly basis, therefore are encouraging residents to place out in case they have extra capacity. TB raised business funding from the government during the Covid-19 crisis advising that Dry Drayton Village Hall have been encouraged to apply and TB has tried contacting as many businesses as possible in Dry Drayton to ensure they apply. TB also highlighted that he does not believe in the proposed form of delegation within local planning and instead is proposing a scheme similar to the process in the past whereby a district or parish councillor would be able to call a matter into the planning committee meaning it would automatically go ahead if suggested. TB feels for democracy people need to have their say and the last few items that TBB has raised have been dismissed. TB highlighted that 65 Pettitts Lane would be an example of this issue and with it being the most significant planning matter in the village for ages, upsetting many people who are not being properly able to have their say.

7. To Discuss Planning Matters

Remote decisions on planning applications were made via email and voting records retained.

a. Applications received for consideration

- i. **20/01378/FUL – Church Farm Building, Park Street – Erection of three double garages (to serve dwellings granted a prior approval under Council reference S/3939/18/PA)** – Deadline expired, DDPC made no comment on this application.
- ii. **20/01065/HFUL – The Flat, 3a Old Rectory Drive – Single storey front and side extension and replacement of existing flat roof with conventional gable end pitched roof – consultee comments extended for this application** – Due to a declaration of interest JD left the meeting. TSH advised that he viewed this application and his one query was whether the extension would be visible from anywhere else. SL confirmed that the only possible place it may be visible from

could be from the footpath close to the property, SL stated that he believes the pitched roof would look nicer than a flat roof and that there would be no effect on the Old Rectory. All councillors agreed no comments were to be made for this application.

- iii. **20/01830/FUL – Duck End Farmhouse, Duck End Farm, Park Lane – Erection of detached double garage with store** – SEM allowed JD back into the meeting. SL advised that outline planning permission for this application had recently lapsed. SL raised concern in relation to the height of the building and future potential for it to be converted to an office/annexe, EP agreed and all councillors agreed to object to the application raising concerns over future use of the building. **Action** – Clerk to submit objection and comments.
- iv. **20/01669/HFUL – Keepers End, Scotland Road -Refurbishment, external insulation and render cladding with zinc roof. Front ground floor and minor first floor extension. Rear ground floor and second floor extension. Minor side storey ground floor extension. Replacement windows throughout. Associated refurbishments throughout and upgrading thermal performance of house to bring it up to the Enerphit standard of low energy refurbishment** - TSH raised concern that he feels the proposed changes to the property are not in keeping with other properties along Scotland Road, appearing as a large white box unlike other neighbouring properties that are rendered or single storey with other features and not just plain white. SL advised that he believes Scotland Road has a mix of houses that are all different, TSH stated he believes that the houses are all different but none of them stand out particularly as he feels Keepers End would. He also stated that he feels it would be worth commenting that DDPC are concerned over the appearance of the proposal, SL advised that the comments should be in relation to the finish rather than the works.

SL invited the resident of Keepers End to the discussion, he advised that the proposal is for a mixture of rendering and cladding, although his architect is pushing for cladding for insulation purposes and the whole point of the proposal is to bring the property into a modern setting and make it stand to represent modern architecture in Dry Drayton. He also stated that he believes there are many styles of properties in the village. TSH highlighted this is clearly a subjective issue and questioned DDPC as to whether they would want something that stands out and changes the appearance when entering the village, SL advised that this property is quite setback from the road, TSH advised that he was not strongly objecting but questioning if the proposal is visually the right thing and questioned that it may be setting a precedent. The resident advised that if housing stock is not updated there is no way that zero carbon will be achieved and the whole premise of his proposal is to create an example of best practice to upgrade existing stock within a plot that can take on that development. **Action** – SL to draft a letter for circulation, agreement, and submission

- v. **20/1204/TTPO - St Giles Cricket Club Scotland Road - (Site Visit Pending) TPO 0015 (1966) A9: T2 - Elm - Fell to ground level (reason: due to the recent storms). (Note: T1 Poplar has no statutory protection)** – No comments to be made.
 - vi. **20/01635/PRI03Q – Rectory Farm, New Road - Prior approval for change of use of agricultural building to dwelling house and for building operations reasonably necessary for the conversion** – DDPC still agreed with the comments they submitted previously. **Action** - Clerk to resubmit comments made in January.
 - vii. **20/1315/TTPO - 5 Scotland Road – Tree works** – No comments to be made.
- b. **Decisions received from South Cambs District Council**

- i. S/4474/19/PA - Rectory Farm, New Road - Prior approval for change of use of agricultural building to a dwelling house (Class C3) and for building operations reasonably necessary for the conversion – Refused
- ii. S/4390/19/DC - Church Farm, Park Street – Condition 2 - Discharged in full
- iii. S/4318/19/DC – 65 Pettitts Lane – Discharge of condition 10 – Discharged in full
- iv. S/4224/19/DC - Church Farm, Park Street – Discharge of conditions 4, 9 & 10 – Discharged in full
- v. S/4231/19/DC - Church Farm, Park Street – Discharge of conditions 3 & 4 – Discharged in full
- vi. S/4087/19/VC – Land at 65 Pettitts Lane – Variation of Condition 1 (Approved Plans) – Refused
- vii. S/3939/18/COND10 – Church Fam Building, Park Street – Condition 10 – Requirement for future management arrangements of proposed streets – Discharged in full
- viii. S/3939/18/COND9 – Church Farm Building, Park Street – Condition 9 Traffic Management Plan – Discharged in full
- ix. S/4334/19/DC – Land at 65 Pettitts Lane – Discharge of condition 6 – Discharged in full
- x. S/0135/20/DC – Land at 65 Pettitts Lane – Discharge of conditions 12 (Contractor parking) & 14 (Traffic Management Plan) – Discharged in full

8. Matters for discussion/correspondence received

- a. **CLlr Lander to advise of meeting with planning in relation to concerns at 65 Pettitts Lane.**
SL advised that he spoke to the then planning officer to suggest a meeting with interested parties and was dismissed due to changes going on and that they believed there was no need for a meeting, SL is therefore now restricted on action he can take – ongoing issue.
- b. **To discuss Covid-19 and actions taken within the parish and for the Community Support Group to provide an update report.**
SL advised that Cllr Peck had done a great job initialising the setting up of the Covid-19 community support group on behalf of DDPC. There has been a tremendous effort, support is still ongoing, and neighbours have been looking after neighbours. SL requested a thank you be noted to Cllr Peck.
- c. **To discuss the proposal from CCC regarding the road scheme for which DDPC successfully received LHI funding for 2020/21**
SL advised that he had a plan sent through from CCC in relation to wigwags and flashing lights around Park Street, with a proposal for a light on Park Street at the top end of the green near Oak Crescent and another light just after the roundabout in Park Street, plans are subject to a site visit. When SL questioned Donald O'Shea (DS) at CCC in relation to the crossing he was advised that the monies for this were in relation to the legacy fund application and not LHI application. SL asked LH if she had an update in relation to the legacy fund application and LH advised that she has taken this to the highest level possible, although it has gone very quiet and that DDPC are not the only parish council with a lack of progress, everyone is having the same experience. LH advised that she would continue to chase the legacy fund application, however, many officers are currently working for resilience. SL advised that DS is pushing DDPC for a decision, however, DDPC are stuck until they know the outcome of the legacy fund application. SL advised that acceptance of the parish council contribution towards the LHI application is required by DDPC, all councillors agreed the contribution even though the legacy fund application is pending.
- d. **To discuss an LHI application for 2021/22 and prepare for submission by 31st May 2020 – Oak Crescent parking is a consideration.**
SL made a proposal to DDPC for this application in relation to the outlined terms discussed last year in relation to the issues at Park Street/Oak Crescent area. SL proposed an application to resurface the entire parking area, sacrificing a small section of wide verge, creating 2-3 additional spaces for vehicles, clearly marking the tarmac with parking spaces,

installation of a sign at the High Street of the bus lane end to ensure prohibition of all vehicles other than buses and making curbs higher in order to prohibit parking. SL advised that a minimum contribution of 10% of £15,000 would need to be made towards the application. LH offered to obtain indicative costs for proposal although did highlight that this will be more difficult in the current crisis. All councillors agreed the proposal RESOLVED.

Action – SL to circulate the application to councillors for review before submission.

- e. **Email from Northstowe re: S106 monies for funding remedial measures in surrounding villages may be needed if traffic flows increase as a result of Northstowe such as traffic calming, measure to increase pedestrian safety or junction capacity – consider measures if happens.**

SL requested that this item was move to the June agenda. SL advised that Northstowe has a consultation that is due to end in June and feels DDPC must respond to the consultation with concerns in relation to increased traffic through Dry Drayton. **Action** – Clerk to ensure item is on the June agenda.

- f. **To discuss the email received from a resident raising issues of a deep pothole on Scotland Road**

SL advised that he believed this issue was now resolved although TSH was not convinced it is resolved as he observed water coming up under the driveways of two to three houses at the other end. LH confirmed that a Local Highways Officer (LHO) looked at this issue a week ago and the best course of action would be for TSH to meet directly with the LHO. **Action** – LH to organise for TSH to meet with an LHO.

- g. **To advise of an issue raised by a resident and A14 team in regard to A14 related works traffic through parish and importance of noting registration numbers and taking photos to send to the A14 team**

Clerk advised that this was for information. SL advised that now the A14 works have been completed this should not now be an issue.

- h. **To discuss footpaths and trees and to arrange a working party in regard to a resident's email re: footpath/cycleway: The Drift and felling of the burnt ash tree and fire damaged branch. Also, to consider resident email re: an orchard project for the parish.**

SL highlighted that a working party is required to clear The Drift that goes down to Bar Hill, although he stated he was unsure if this could safely happen at present. TSH advised that he was going to go to The Drift and cut some overhanging branches and suggested carrying out works individually would be the safest way. JD highlighted that there is still traffic in this area so safety of individuals would need to be considered. EP suggested time slots on a specific day where individuals could take turns. SL advised that as the path has not been managed previously it will not appear on the county budget to be sorted so the parish will have to arrange management of the pathway by cutting back and shifting the grass that has crept on the path. **Action** – JD to request volunteers in the next newsletter

9. Consultations

- a. **Local Enforcement Plan for Minerals & Waste Development in Cambridgeshire ended 08/04/20 – no comments were made**
- b. **For information – Greater Cambridge Housing Trajectory & 5-year Housing Land Supply – available to view online**

10. Finance and Policy

- a. **To accept account review to date and bank reconciliation**

The end of year account review and bank reconciliation were circulated and approved by all councillors.

- b. **To advise of payments received**

- i. **SCDC – 1st precept instalment - £3,737.25**

- c. **Remote decisions on the following payments to hand received from 25th February 2020 – were made via email and records retained.**

- i. **Haven Power – 1st DDM for streetlighting energy - £8.76 paid by DDM – Parish Councils Act 1957, s.3; Highways Act 1980, s.301.**

- ii. **CAPALC – Councillor Training for Cllr Houlihane - £75.00** – All councillors agreed payment – RESOLVED. SL and JD approved the payment online. *Local Government Act (LGA) 1972, s.175.*
 - iii. **CAPALC – 20/21 Affiliation Fee including DPO membership - £342.25** - All councillors agreed payment - RESOLVED. SL and JD approved the payment online. *LGA 1972, s.143.*
 - iv. **Geosphere Ltd – Annual Parish mapping fee - £36.00** – All councillors agreed payment – RESOLVED. SL and JD approved payment online. *LGA 1972, s.143.*
 - v. **S Etherington-Meech – Clerks Period 12 overtime & expenses - £94.95** - All councillors agreed payment - RESOLVED. SL and JD approved the payment online. *LGA 1972, s. 112 & s.151.*
 - vi. **Cllr Pyle – Reimbursement of tree purchase - £64.69** – All councillors agreed payment – RESOLVED. SL and JD approved the payment online. *Public Health Act 1875, s.164; Open Spaces Act 1906, s.15.*
 - vii. **Red Shoes Accounting – Payroll Services - £43.20** - All councillors agreed payment - RESOLVED. SL and JD approved the payment online. *LGA 1972, s. 112 & s.151.*
 - viii. **Brookfield Groundcare – Cut 1 of 10 - £360.00** - All councillors agreed payment - RESOLVED. SL and JD approved the payment online. *Public Health Act 1875, s.164; Open Spaces Act 1906, ss.9 and 10; Commons Act 1899.*
 - ix. **VisionICT Ltd – Website Hosting & Support (Jun 20-May 21) - £210.00** – All councillors agreed payment – RESOLVED. SL and JD approved the payment online. *LGA 1972, s. 142.*
 - x. **Haven Power – Street lighting energy - £30.16 (paid by DDM)** - *Parish Councils Act 1957, s.3; Highways Act 1980, s.301.*
- d. **To approve the following payments to hand**
- i. **Brookfield Groundcare – Cut 2 of 10 - £360.00** - All councillors agreed payment - RESOLVED. SL and JD to approve online payment. *Public Health Act 1875, s.164; Open Spaces Act 1906, ss.9 and 10; Commons Act 1899.*
 - ii. **S Etherington-Meech – Reimbursement of Annual Zoom Subscription - £143.88**
 - An additional payment was agreed for clerks’ overtime/expenses and missed payment for Period 10 - £120.76 - All councillors agreed payment - RESOLVED. SL and JD to approve online payment. *LGA 1972, s. 112 & s.151.*
- e. **The Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) for 2019/20 – On 30th April 2020, the date for local councils to complete the final audited accounts was extended from 1st June 2020 to 1st September 2020 by statute. The Accounts and Audit (Coronavirus) (Amendment) Regulations 2020. To review and approve the final year accounts, bank reconciliation, AGAR, exemption certificate and all supporting documentation for 2019/20**
 All documents were circulated to councillors prior to the meeting. The internal auditor is booked for June. As the income or expenditure for DDPC does not exceed £25,000 AGAR Part 2 was completed.
 The exemption certificate was read aloud by the clerk including the qualifying criteria, all councillors agreed that DDPC meet the qualifying criteria and the certificate was completed and signed by the Responsible Financial Officer (SEM) and will be sent to the Chairman (SL) for his signature also. Next Section, the Annual Governance Statement 2019/20 was read out, all councillors agreed to all points and the form was completed and signed by the Responsible Financial Officer (SEM) and will be sent to the Chairman (SL) for his signature also. Finally, The Accounting Statements for 2019/20 were agreed by all councillors and signed by the responsible Financial Officer (SEM) and will be sent to the Chairman (SL) for his signature also. Councillors reviewed and approved the bank reconciliation and explanation of variances. RESOLVED.
- f. **For information – Changes to precept instalment frequency for 2020 due to Covid-19 – current advice that payments are to be made in April, July, and September 2020**
 SL explained this under Item 10. b) and that this would not affect DDPC as a council.

g. To discuss a review of the parish councils' scheme of delegation/critical services and functions and how they would continue with staff absence.

SEM advised that NALC have highlighted the need for parish councils in the current crisis to manage their risks and review their scheme of delegation and consider that if councillors are unable to attend meetings that certain delegations to the clerk, chairman and vice-chairman are considered. SEM advised that as DDPC is a relatively small council the main issues would be to pay invoices and comment on planning applications, however, in the current crisis NALC gave authority for councils to make decisions via email and there is now new legislation for parish councils to host virtual meetings.

SL highlighted that the major vulnerability for DDPC would be if the clerk were unable to work and a locum would therefore be required, the clerk advised that LGS Services offer a locum clerk service. It was also highlighted by SL that if he were unavailable DDPC would have to ensure that other councillors could step in and assist. **Action** – Clerk to conduct a risk assessment.

h. To confirm instruction of LGS Services for internal audit

DDPC approved the instruction of LGS Services to carry out their internal audit for 2019/20.

i. To confirm that Red Shoes Accounting Payroll Services no longer process the clerk's salary

Clerk confirmed that Red Shoes Accounting are no longer processing her salary and that she has successfully managed to process her April salary herself directly through HMRC Basic PAYE tools.

11. To accept notices and matter for the next agenda

a. Allotments

b. Northstowe Phase 3a and 3b

12. Date and time of next meeting – TBA

Next meeting agreed for Tuesday 23rd June 2020 at 7pm

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.

No items to be discussed that need to exclude the public and press

Meeting closed at 9.02pm

Appendix 1

Action Report/Ongoing Issues

	Hedge cutting/ownership and boundaries of surrounding properties for the Former Methodist Church/Chapel (ongoing) RESOLVED	SL
	Streetlighting energy supply to be set up with new supplier Haven (ongoing) RESOLVED	SEM
a.	Woodland Trust tree application for free trees to be completed (ongoing)	SL
b.	Oak Crescent Parking Issues/LHI application/consultation (ongoing)	SL/LH
c.	Park Lane Verges/Cycle path upgrade/line painting/drainage (ongoing)	LH/SL
d.	Village Hall Management Committee – marketing/action plan/processes investigation (ongoing)	JD/SEM
e.	Arrangement of new councillor training (ongoing) –	SEM
f.	Rod Scammell resignation – quotation from Brookfield (SM)/exact location & frequency and grass cutting reimbursement query for CC (SL) (ongoing)	SL
g.	Cambridgeshire Building Society Account – Change of signatories/address etc (ongoing)	SL
h.	Flooding Park Lane/Madingley Rd – KC/FP enquire as to landowner/SL to contact (ongoing)	KC/FP/SL
i.	Publicise for volunteers for village clean-up/Great British Spring Clean email (ongoing) – difficult to arrange at present, although it links into another agenda item	JD
j.	Buckingham Palace Garden Party Nomination RESOLVED	SL
k.	Progress of new members for the Village Hall Management Committee/KC handyman duties/EP represent DDPC at committee meetings (Ongoing)	KC/EP/JD
l.	Recruitment of volunteers for village Speed watch team (Ongoing)	SL/JD
m.	Boundary and fencing at Cotton Fields	TSH

Appendix 2

Report from District Councillor Douglas de Lacey: 12.05.2020

This report should have started with the word 'Farewell'. I had fully intended that at the May Annual Meeting of the Council, having handed over the Chair to my successor, I would announce my resignation from the Council.

There were many reasons for this: my wife is not well and needs my attention; I have achieved most of what led me to be a Councillor; I had identified someone who would stand as my successor and be very able to represent the Ward. But the government has abolished both annual meetings (at which I could resign) and elections (at which I could be replaced). So the Leader has persuaded me that this is not the time for major changes, and I shall stay on as long as I can until the lockdown is lifted. I also remain as Chairman to the Council and hope that I can lead the Council into the strange new world of remote meetings. To this end I have had some intensive training in the use of MS Teams. Because of family circumstances I shall not be able to commit myself 100% but shall do all I can.

As Chairman the only thing I have done this month was to put out a statement for VE Day. On Monday 4th May I was asked to do a video of myself 'reading a poem and highlighting the fact that some people who are 'high risk' of getting this virus are perhaps those who endured in the war'. Well, my researches indicated that no such poem existed, so I enjoyed the challenges of writing one, learning how to do a video of myself, and producing it for the Council. On the Friday it went out on our various social media channels and I have received some gratifying responses.

As a District Council we have received and disbursed significant sums of money to local businesses, all of whom should now have heard from us; and we are grateful that our MP Anthony Brown for his lobbying of the Government on our behalf. It is disappointing that some local businesses do not meet the criteria but we are hopeful that they too can be helped somehow.

Our waste service has worked tremendously hard to find a way to resume green bin collections while keeping our staff safe, and I congratulate them. At present it is only monthly but we are working on restoring a full service. At one stage I was fearful that even the blue bin collections may be in jeopardy, but that service is doing well; some people are applying for a second bin and the tonnage of recycled material has increased over the past 7 weeks. And a project steered by our planning team, jointly with the City, has won not one but three prestigious awards for the co-housing development at Marmalade Lane. Despite the lockdown our planning team continues to work hard, and has launched a consultation on the next phase of Northstowe. To get involved go to www.scams.gov.uk/consultations/

Stagecoach has announced that its bus drivers will no longer handle change, and passengers must therefore offer the exact fare or forfeit the difference (which will be donated to good causes). From my observation social distancing is not a problem on the Citi 5 and 6 services but do protect yourself if travelling.

Douglas de Lacey

Appendix 3

Cambridgeshire County Councillor's Report Dry Drayton Parish Council - 19 May 2020 meeting

On Tuesday 19 May Cambridgeshire County Council will hold its first virtual Annual General Meeting. With possibly 60 members attending, the requirement for all votes to be taken audibly by a process of roll call will I think add to the complications that accrue from this new style of meeting. Goodness knows how many prompts we shall hear of 'you've muted yourself' although in order to improve the smooth running of the meeting, each group has been asked to nominate just two speakers on each agenda item in addition to the proposer and seconder. The meeting will be held via Zoom and live streamed to the web via YouTube. There is one item that may require the council to go into closed session and, should this be necessary, the meeting will be adjourned so that it can be transferred to the Teams app which is deemed to be more secure for confidential matters. There are varying views about this new way of conducting meetings; some members are desperate to get back to physical meetings whilst others, particularly those with long journeys I suspect, would like to see the current format continue. Virtual attendance is permitted until March 2021 and it is unlikely that this will change given that the rules on shielding are likely to persist.

Further complications will doubtless arise when a mix of attendance options becomes available.

The agenda includes the normal item on committee structures but this year there are additions to the usual membership changes and chair appointments. Hitherto the service committees have included two that are very closely related: Highways & Infrastructure and Economy & Environment. Following the Council's declaration of a climate emergency and its commitment to the development of its Climate Change & Environment Strategy and action plan, it has reviewed its committee structures to provide greater focus on actions to address climate change. The previous Economy & Environment committee will be abolished and two committees with a new focus will be created: Highways & Transport and Environment & Sustainability. The number of service committees will remain the same so there is no increase in officer time or cost.

The committee structures item also includes two additional changes, the reasons for which have seen some very different views being expressed. One will see the County Council withdraw its delegation to, and membership of the Joint Development Control Committee for Cambridge Fringes [JDCC]. The reason for this is to rationalise processes and provide greater clarity for residents on planning process - a subject that is almost inextricable from contention in one form or another. The current situation where two applications, both of which relate to the same project, can be considered by different committees does not support the underpinning principles of transparency and consistency of process required in planning. I refer here to the Chisholm Trail project and a constituent part, the Chesterton Bridge where one application was considered by the JDCC and the other by the County Council's planning committee. Much of the contention surrounding this proposed change relates to a view that this will somehow create a democratic deficit. The County Council is not proposing that the JDCC be abolished; it is simply withdrawing its delegation of planning applications to the committee and ceasing to sit at the table to consider those applications that will continue to be considered by the JDCC. It is unthinkable that two local authorities, SCambs and the City, who already share a planning service and are preparing a joint local plan, will not continue to consider applications for major strategic sites together in a revised JDCC. The forum in which any application is considered will not preclude participation by local people. They will still be able to make the same representations as they have always done both to a new format JDCC or to

the County Council's planning committee. As a member of this latter, I know how rigorously councillors consider the issues and concerns raised by local people.

The second proposed change that has attracted criticism is that of the abolition of the Cambridge Joint Area Committee [CJAC]. As a county councillor representing a SCambs division, I am very used to the system that currently operates with regard to TTROs [Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders] in the rural districts. Indeed recently I and the relevant parish clerks, have been notified of two TTROs which affect villages in Bar Hill division [not Dry Drayton this time]. If there is an objection to a TTRO, it is incumbent on the officer to consult the county councillor and, at this stage if no agreement can be reached, the matter would be referred to committee. In practice this rarely happens because the councillor is very quickly made aware by residents or the parish council of issues or concerns, and resultant discussion with officers usually allows for accommodation to be made. Whilst Cambridge City doesn't have the benefit of parish councils, it has a wide range of residents' associations who can similarly express their views through the local member and, should there be no mutual agreement reached at that point, the residents' associations will be able to make representations to the committee in the same way that they currently do at CJAC meetings. CJAC meetings also currently consider applications for residents' parking schemes and whilst there is an obvious vested interest in local communities to have influence over these, the views of rural residents many of whom make a big contribution to the Cambridge economy are not taken into account. I have some sympathy with their contention that off street parking in Cambridge is very expensive and unaffordable for many of them who do less well paid jobs, and the alternative of public transport is poor or non-existent for the residents of many villages.

Much of my time this month has been taken up with the issue of Covid-19 testing for care homes. It is a relief to note that locally outbreaks in care homes for the elderly and those suffering from dementia have been far lower than in some other parts of the country. However, there is a disparity between the extended testing service now being offered to these homes and those that cater for people with disabilities or learning difficulties. I am grateful for the support of the Leader of the Council as I liaise with senior officers in both public health and the clinical commissioning group to ensure that the local interpretation of national guidance allows for the right priorities to be set. The County Council has set some very high standards for the support offered to care homes during the crisis which, in addition to cash funding, includes the provision of PPE and the redeployment of some of its own staff to support settings where staffing has presented a particular challenge.

The debate continues nationally about the government's proposals to effect a possible phased reopening of schools from 01 June. The work of the Director of Education for Cambridgeshire & Peterborough has been acknowledged by central government as exemplar. This relates both to the very detailed support given to local schools during the time that they have remained open for the children of key workers and vulnerable children, and to his service's close liaison with all education settings in preparation for reopening, whenever it happens.

I share the excitement of the many residents who have contacted me since the announcement of additional funding for enhancements to active travel facilities. We are all now eagerly waiting to hear what Cambridgeshire's share of this funding will be. Construction of the cycle path connection between Dry Drayton and the NMU built as part of the A14C2H upgrade, is still subject to resolution of a land issue. A discussion with the landowner prior to lock down about the sections of ditch that are required to maintain consistent width of the path had indicated that there might be a way forward. We must recognise that the current crisis is adding to the challenges of local businesses and pursuing some things will consequently take a lower priority for those running them. Whilst acknowledging this to be the case, it has always been the hope that this work could be tied into the

completion of the A14C2H works and so I have now written again to the landowner asking if he is able to help facilitate progress of this eagerly awaited project.

I am looking forward to attending your virtual meeting this month. In order to help manage the first Dry Drayton Parish Council meeting in this format please do consider contacting me by email or phone with any questions or comments about the content of this report or indeed any other matter relating to the work of the County Council. I am greatly impressed by the continuing work of the Parish Council in leading the local group that is providing support for the local community. It is just amazing to see the inherent community spirit in our villages demonstrated in some very practical ways. Take care. Stay safe.

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