

Babraham Parish Council: Minutes of Meeting held 20th July 2023

Present:

Denise Dear: Chair

Jane Goody

Richard Bandy

Charlotte Boast

Stuart Laurie

Cllr Brian Milnes

Anne Charteris: Clerk

Members of the public: 3

The meeting was held one week later than usual due to the School Hall not being available on the 13th July

	<p>Part I: Non-Confidential Information</p>
2307/01	<p>To receive and approve apologies for absence – none received</p>
2307/02	<p>To receive members' declaration of interest for items on this agenda Denise Dear – Babraham Church PCC</p>
2307/03	<p>To sign and approve minutes of meeting dated 8th June 2023 The Minutes were approved and signed off.</p>
2305/04	<p>Exclusion of the public To determine which items, if any, from Part 1 of the Agenda should be taken with the public excluded</p>
2307/05	<p>Report from South Cambridgeshire District Councillor P McDonald The report can be found in full on the website, but in brief: <u>Public recycling bin trial</u> The District Council is running a trial deployment of recycling bins for village public spaces, which will begin later this year. These will be blue bins for mixed recycling, following the same rules and colour as our domestic blue bins. The aim of the trial is to assess demand and whether or not the bins are used correctly before adapting collection vehicles for fullscale deployment if the trial is successful.</p> <p><u>Mobile Food Hub</u> A new Mobile Food Hub, funded by the District Council and run by not-for-profit organisation, Hope CIC, is being launched to further support communities during the cost of living crisis. Fresh produce and essential items, some of which will be free and others at below retail price, will be brought directly to villages around South Cambridgeshire to help people with rising food prices. It is the first service of its kind in the district. The initiative was launched amid figures from the Consumer Prices Index in April which showed food shopping bills have risen by almost 20% in the last year. The Mobile Food Hub will visit Papworth, Orchard Park and Duxford weekly, with further locations to be confirmed. It will be open in Duxford every Thursday from 11am to 12noon. The villages have been selected based on Census deprivation data, mapped against where current foodbanks and food hubs operate from.</p>

	<p>Any resident struggling with increasing costs, including those who live outside of these villages, can access this Mobile Food Hub by turning up on the day. No vouchers or referrals are needed. There will be a mix of fresh and long-life food on offer. Food is coming from both donations and purchasing from local suppliers. Residents will also be able to buy essential affordable items.</p> <p><u>Review of achievements in 2022/23</u></p> <p>The council has produced two videos summarising its achievements during 2022/23 to give an overview to taxpayers of how their money is being used to deliver and improve services. These can be watched here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mlB6auWfV8 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-a2zup0xTGc</p> <p><u>Cost of Living support</u></p> <p>The District Council's Communities Team have created a new leaflet advising residents of support available during the cost-of-living crisis. There is a push this year to encourage more people to apply for Council Tax support as many who are eligible for this scheme are unaware it exists. If you are able to assist with distributing this leaflet within your parish, please email chris.riches@scambs.gov.uk who will arrange for leaflets to be printed.</p> <p><u>Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service survey</u></p> <p>Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service have asked the council to share details of their latest public survey to help improve their service in preparation for their next five-year plan.</p> <p>The survey should take 10-15 minutes to complete. There are three £50 shopping vouchers which you can have a chance of winning by completing it.</p> <p><u>Four-day working week update</u></p> <p>Last month I reported that the four-day working week trial at the District Council had been extended by a year, following the success of the initial three-month pilot. In those three months, the scheme had generated direct savings of £300,000 thanks to an improvement in recruitment and retention. Further savings on the £2 million annual bill for agency staff are anticipated as the trial continues. Additional indirect savings are also expected as we see the broader benefits of moving away from a high turnover of temporary staff. The independent assessment of the trial reported significant improvement in most of the Key Performance Indicators assessed, with no serious outliers of concern.</p> <p>The council was therefore surprised to receive a letter on 1 July from Lee Rowley MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Local Government and Building Safety, requesting a halt to the trial. This letter generated significant media attention.</p> <p>The District Council Leader, Bridget Smith, has requested a meeting immediately to understand the reasons behind this request in light of the range of benefits for taxpayers that the trial has demonstrated.</p> <p>2307/06 Report from Cambridgeshire County Councillors Brian Milnes and Maria King. No report received, this will be posted on the web when available.</p> <p>2307/07 Report from Babraham Research Campus (BRC) representative Meetings continue to be held with the Neighbourhood Planning group following the drop in exhibition held recently, the data and views from this event have been very helpful. The new building is progressing well and looks likely that it will be finished one month ahead of the original completion date of Feb 5th. The crane is due to be removed soon. The treeworks planned for the High St have been given the go-ahead by UK Power Network.</p>
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	<p>The blockage of the river is due to be cleared soon. Overall the river is in a very good condition, this has been verified by the Trout Club, Help is to be given to the school to clear the mud kitchen and dilapidated sheds. Improvement works at the school playing field will be started. The grass land will be cut soon now that the breeding season of ground nesting birds is almost over. Over winter, the willows will be pollarded, along with other safety work along the permissive paths. A question was raised as to whether the gate on the path along Rowley Lane which goes to the Cricket Club ground could be removed to allow easier access for those with pushchair and disabled users. CC said that he will look into this but there were concerns that cyclists would then use the path.</p>
2307/08	Cheveley Park Development Plans. Nothing to report.
2307/09	Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP) Cambridge South East Transport (CSET) Meetings to be held in September with Joint Assembly, then to the Executive board to have a look at. If the go ahead is given then there will be a lot of decisions to be made. This will be towards the end of Sept, along with the Transport board/ On the 23 rd August there will be an online meeting with Cambridge Past Present and future.
2307/10	Public participation time – 15 minutes allowed Cllr Milnes was asked about potholes- there are 2 dragon patchers and 2 hired patchers working to try to fill in the potholes. The pavement along the High St is very bad, following it being reported, we were told that it was not a priority. A question was asked if we could get it repaired privately, but this would not be allowed. This will be followed up with Highways, possibility of trying to get this repaired using the Local Highways Initiative grant. Can the PC improve the grass verges by planting wild flowers along the flint wall- need to prove who owns this land, may need to get permission from Highways.
2307/11	Forest Garden Project. To hear and comment on updates from Hannah Thomas . Nothing to report apart from SL has trimmed paths and mowed in the Forage Garden part as well.
2307/12	Neighbourhood Plan Cllrs to consider report and to resolve on any actions. The NP group has met with Chris Chapman following the exhibition The final design codes have been received and these are being reviewed. The Community master plan should be based on what the village wants. For the final stage, we are waiting for funding, this has not yet been applied for as the grant has not yet opened. 260 units are due to be built on the Close, this should completely tick the box to meet the quotas asked for in the area. The houses will be owned by the Campus and rented out.
2307/13	Internal Auditors report. Councillors confirmed that they have received and read this report. The Annual Audit has now been sent to the external Auditors for approval.
2307/14	General Village Matters and new items for discussion 1. Annual update of training for councillors and chair - what is available and when and for whom. Clerk send these to Councillors when received, will resend for those who missed them

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Resolution of the Coronation donation issue. This was agreed on and that in future any money given towards this sort of function could only be given as long as receipts available, Thanks were given to the Church for the lovely refreshments 3. Formal agreement with regards to matters discussed at 08/06 meeting including mowing, seeding, discussions with Institute etc, - who is doing what and when. 4. In future, these sort of activities to be proposed and seconded to avoid confusion. 5. Understanding the collective responsibility for issuing e-mails to outside bodies and individuals. Emails should only be sent through the Clerk or Chair. 6. Policy on lone working of volunteers: this policy is on the website. Any volunteers should have someone with them or ensure Someone knows where they are working. 																														
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2307/15	Receipts (as of 4th July 2023) Bank Interest £238.73																														
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2307/19	Applications Received:																														
	<p>The South Cambridgeshire District Council (Public Footpath No.12, Sawston (part) and Public Footpath No. 9, Babraham) Public Path Stopping Up Order 2023</p> <p>South Cambridgeshire District Council has made an Order to stop up the existing cross-field public footpaths (between points A-B-C on the attached plan) and replace them with a public bridleway from Church Lane (point D) through to Sawston Road (point M) (this includes the upgrade of part of Public Footpath No. 14, Sawston to bridleway status between points D and F), a public footpath connecting the replacement bridleway and Public Footpath No. 2, Pampisford (between points G-H) and another public footpath</p>																														

	<p>connecting the replacement bridleway and Public Footpath No. 1, Pampisford (between points K-C). The stopping up and replacement of the public footpaths is necessary to enable a development of 280 dwellings on land south of Babraham Road in Sawston under planning reference 21/03955/FUL. Cambridgeshire County Council are administering this public path order on behalf of South Cambridgeshire District Council.</p> <p>Comments by 3rd August. No objections.</p>
2307/20	<p>Planning decisions: None</p>
2307/21	<p>Correspondence.</p> <p>The Linton Greenway works from Hildersham to Dale Head Foods has been substantially completed, and the pathway and road are fully open.</p> <p>Our original intention was to complete the planned carriageway surfacing by closing the A1307 between Haverhill and Fourwentways roundabout weekdays overnight, and diverting traffic on National Highways roads.</p> <p>However, we have now been advised that it is only possible to use this diversion at weekends.</p> <p>Due to this, we now plan to complete the carriageway surfacing work over a 48 hour window. This will involve closing the A1307 between Haverhill and Fourwentways roundabout, from 6am on Saturday 15 July until 6am on Monday 17 July.</p>
2307/22	<p>Items for inclusion in the next meeting</p> <p>Date of next meeting: Thursday 14th September 2023 at 7:30pm</p>
2307/23	<p>Part II: Confidential Information</p> <p>Exclusion of the Press and the Public: To resolve that in accordance with Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and by reason of the confidential nature of the remainder of the business, the Press and the Public be excluded from the meeting.</p> <p>Signature: <i>Anne Charteris</i> 24th July 2023 10 Duxford Road, Hinxtton, Saffron Walden, Essex, CB10 1RB 01799 531827</p>