

Over Parish Council

Minutes Full Council Meeting – Tuesday 9th November 2021

7.35pm

PRESENT

Chairman: Mrs A Griffiths

Vice Chairman: Mr G Twiss

Councillors: Mr S Couper, Mr R Robinson, Mr A Tranter, Mr M Conlon, Mr M Grange (2 Vacancies)

Parish Clerk: Mrs M Pink (Via zoom)

In attendance

District Councillor: Cllr Bill Handley

Parishioners: nine

2021/11-01 To Receive and Accept Apologies for Absence

Mrs J Davies, Mrs M Hyde, County Cllr F Thompson, District Cllr D Percival, Sarah Thomson – Age UK

2021/11-02 Members' Declarations of Interest & Dispensations

2.1 Declarations of interest from councillors on items on the agenda – Registered Interests received from Cllr A Tranter – Trustee of Over Day Centre

Cllrs A Griffiths, R Robinson – Trustees of Over Relief in Need, and The Church and Town Lands Charity, Estate and Town Branches

2.2 Requests to Speak - No requests received to speak on any items as declared above.

2.3 To receive requests for dispensations - No requests received.

2.4 To grant requests received - The granting of dispensations to be made by Full Council.

2021/11-03 Matters of Interest from County and District Councillors and PCSO

3.1 County Council – Emailed report noted by Council

3.2 District Council – Emailed report noted by Council

3.3 Police – No report

2021/11-04 Public Participation – Age UK Presentation by Sarah Thomson cancelled due to non-attendance.

Several residents spoke about Agenda item 10.3 Demolition of Charity owned meadow at the end of Mustills Lane. Comments concerning the locked gate and non-access to the field were raised as this area has been used for free access walking for many years. The resident concerned has contacted the Ramblers Association who have told him to continue to use the walk as normal. A presentation was made by a main spokesperson to provide the Council with some background information to the concerns that have been raised regarding the change of use for the Meadow following a new tenant on the land owned by the Church and Town Lands Charity, Estate and Town Branches. Some individual testimonials were read out highlighting the number of years that the field has been used as a walkway, the loss of wildlife habitats and other environmental concerns. The residents present also had concerns that the Charity Trustees have not fulfilled their obligations to the Village. The Chairman thanked the Residents for making their comments known to the Council. The Vice Chairman explained to the Residents that the Parish Council does not have any authority over the Charity to ask them to reverse their decision as the Charity is a totally separate entity and is not connected to the Parish Council. It was suggested to the Residents present that they should address their concerns to the Charity directly and to the Charity Commission if they feel that the Charity Trustees have acted outside of their governing document. A Village meeting can also be called if needed.

2021/11-05 Minutes

5.1 To Approve Minutes of the Full Parish Council Meeting Dated 12th October 2021.

RESOLVED: It was proposed, seconded, and unanimously agreed that the Minutes are approved with the following changes being noted. Agenda item 8.1 The flexibility of timing and the number of cuts was also discussed along with the quotes. Chairman to sign the Minutes. **ACTION CHAIR**

5.2 To receive the Minutes from the Annual Parish Meeting 21st September 2021 and to decide if action needed on any points raised – The Council noted the Minutes and agreed that all action points have been addressed and will be actioned by the Council as appropriate.

Cllr Couper asked the Chairman to bring forward Agenda item 10.3 for discussion so that the residents present are aware of the comments made by the Council on this item. A discussion took place and will be reported below at Agenda item 10.3

2021/11-06 Planning for Discussion and Comments

- 6.1 Application - 21/04223/S73 - 45 High Street - Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) of planning application S/1224/18/FL (Demolition of existing outbuildings and construction of 5 dwellings and associated parking and amenity space.) revising the arboriculture strategy to allow standard foundations, removing the need for piling
RESOLVED: It was proposed, seconded, and unanimously agreed that the Council do not have any comments regarding this application.
- 6.2 Application – 20/04896/CONDB - 71 Station Road - Submission of details required by Conditions 4 (Surface water and foul water), 5 (Contamination) and 13 (Traffic Management Plan) of planning permission 20/04896/FUL
RESOLVED: It was proposed, seconded, and unanimously agreed that the Council do not have any comments regarding this application.
- 6.3 Application – 21/04537/HFUL – 28 Station Road – External staircase with access door & two additional roof windows to the garage
RESOLVED: It was proposed, seconded, and unanimously agreed that the Council comments are noted as no objections
Planning for Information Only or Comments if needed
- 6.4 Application – S/4201/18/CONDB – Land East Of 7 Longstanton Road - Submission of details required by conditions 13 (Vehicular and pedestrian visibility splays) and 16 (Long term maintenance plan of surface water drainage system) of planning permission S/4201/18/VC – Noted by Council
- 6.5 Application - 21/04616/PRIOR - Great Expectations Farm 42 Longstanton Road - Prior approval for extension to existing livestock food storage barn – Noted by Council
- 6.6 Application – 21/1422/TTCA – The Vicarage – Various tree works – Noted by Council
- 6.7 Greater Cambridge Local Plan Consultation (1.11- 13.12.21) to be noted and comments if needed – Noted by Council

2021/11-07 Finance

- 7.1 Approval of Payments – £3,145.12
 The Clerk asked the Council to accept a late invoice for payment for room rental of £39.60. The payment will be made now and listed on the payments list in December.
RESOLVED: To approve invoices and payments to the sum of £3,145.12 as listed and to make a payment as above for £39.60.
- 7.2 Receipts noted: None
- 7.3 Qtr. 2 Accounts for Over PC to be noted – Noted by Council

Parish Council meeting suspended in order to discuss items relating to the Registered Charity for The Green (Charity number: 300418) Parish Council is Sole Trustee of the Charity**2021/11-08 The Green as a Charity – User Action Groups**

- 8.1 Green user action groups - stakeholder update – Cllrs Twiss and Grange had emailed a summary report to the Council prior to the meeting and have shared it with the sports clubs in the Village. The Council discussed the report and agreed that it provided a good assessment of current land in the Village that is large enough to host a sporting event. This document will provide a good starting point for discussions with the clubs to assess the needs and wants and to ensure that any chosen piece of land that is to be pursued is a good fit for the purposes for which it is needed. Cllrs Twiss and Grange will use this as an information gathering tool and will organise constructive meetings with the Clubs if needed. **ACTION GT, MG**
- 8.2 Green user action groups - user update – The Clerk provided Cllr Davies with the current details of the green users so that she can make contact regarding any action needed. **ACTION JD & CLERK**

Parish Council meeting reconvened**2021/11-09 Procedure**

- 9.1 Standardised Council email addresses to be discussed – The Clerk forwarded her research information and costings to Cllr Grange so that he could make a recommendation to the Council regarding this item. Cllr Grange agreed with the Clerk that the best fit for the Council would be to set up and administer Council emails using Microsoft 365 Business Basic. This item was queried by some Councillors, but a final decision was made to accept the recommendation. Both Cllr Grange and the

Clerk are happy to help any Councillor to set up the new system when it has been finalised. The format would be - first name.second name@over-pc.org.uk

RESOLVED: It was proposed, seconded, and unanimously agreed that the Clerk should make the necessary order for the software licences and that she should administer the emails for each Councillor. Help with system set up can be provided if required. This will be a standard budget line going forward for annual renewal payments.

ACTION MG & CLERK

2021/11-10 Village Matters

- 10.1 Asplins Close parking area update – The Clerk has carried out the letter drop and has already received some favourable comments. She will wait to see if any other comments are made and will then get quotations to put forward costs to Council in December. **ACTION CLERK**
- 10.2 Illegal Encampments update – No current information
- 10.3 Demolition of Meadow owned by the Church and Town Lands Charity, Estate and Town Branches – resident letter to be discussed. The Clerk had received an email attaching a letter with 106 signatures and a copy of an email sent to the Charity. This correspondence together with the comments already made were discussed by Council. The Council and Charity are two separate entities and when a Councillor attends a Charity meeting and acts as a Trustee they are attending as a Trustee only and must abide by the rules for the Charity set out in the Charity Governing Document. They are not acting as Parish Councillors. The Parish Council does not have any authority over Charity matters and cannot ask them to carry out anything that they do not want to do. They certainly cannot reverse or overturn any Charity decisions made. The Council therefore agreed to send a letter to the Charity to make them aware of the residents' views expressed this evening and to ask the Charity Trustees to attend a Parish Council meeting to provide an overview of this item so that the Council are aware of the Charities stance on land management and the reasoning behind the acceptance of the new tenant and the change of use of the Meadow. The Council also asked the Clerk to look into the rules regarding establishing a recognised footpath and to contact Swavesey and Over Conservation Society to find out more information about the three other wildflower meadows in the Village to see if they are open to all and if these areas can be suggested to Over residents as areas to walk in around the Village. **ACTION CLERK**
- RESOLVED:** It was agreed that the Clerk should invite the Charity Trustees to attend a Parish Council meeting and to find out more information as stated.
- 10.4 Trees in the Doles – resident request for a second opinion from a tree surgeon regarding work to be carried out to a tree outside no.s 63 and 65 – The Clerk has received a request from a resident who is concerned about the large tree situated outside their home in the Doles. Tree work has already been carried out to this tree to take away the overhanging growth going towards the home and the main part of the tree now grows towards the pathway away from the home. The resident is concerned that the tree is still too large and could fall onto their home. The Clerk has checked this tree out with the tree surgeon and has been told that the correct work has been carried out and nothing further is needed but the resident would like to receive a second opinion if possible. Cllr Robinson will attend site with the tree surgeon and will provide an update in December. **ACTION RR & CLERK**
- 10.5 Queens Green Canopy Tree initiative to be noted – The Clerk attended a meeting about the initiative and provided slides for the Council to give them an overview. The Queen would like to see trees planted across the UK to mark her Platinum Jubilee next year. The Council are proposing to plant five trees at Giffords Way and one tree on the Green and the Clerk will notify the organisers that the trees will form part of the Queens Green Canopy. **ACTION CLERK**
- 10.6 Land East of Station Road update following meeting – The Clerk had organised a site meeting to allow the Councillors to obtain some background information so that they can accurately discuss the site if a planning application is submitted.
- 10.7 In principle request for Parish Council support for refurbishment of changing rooms and referee's room at the Community Centre by Over Community Association – No quotes at present – The Chairman has been asked to find out the Councils views on using Parish Council reserves for refurbishment work at the Centre. The Council discussed this item and agreed that the works suggested would be maintenance items rather than facility enhancements, so they are unable to support this request at this time. The Parish Council reserves are to be used for facility improvements and enhancements and are not to be used for any replacement or renewal work. **ACTION CLERK**

Over County councillor report covering Longstanton, Northstowe, Over, Oakington & Westwick
November 2021 Cllr Firouz Thompson – County Council Report

HIGHWAYS

Residents are kindly reminded to report any problems on Highways using [Highways Reporting](#), as it will then be picked up by the LHOs to bring to these meetings. Please note: A pothole must be deeper than 40mm and wider than 75mm in any horizontal direction for the Council to intervene and fix. Further details can be found on the following link: [How long does it take to fix a road fault - Cambridgeshire County Council](#)

Next Highways quarterly meeting will take place in January 2022 with County Highway Officer and Parish Chairs/Vice Chairs /Clerks from Longstanton, Over and Oakington & Westwick.

You can also follow us on Twitter for updates on where we are working: - [@CambsCC](#) or [@Cambs_Traffic](#)

Over – Highways updates

GULLY MAINTENANCE took place over in October for Over, as we did not have a record of all our gullies across the county, we started the process of recording while cleaning. Due to a lack of maintenance over the years the gullies have taken longer to clean. I should be able to provide some headlines once our database has been updated.

WEST STREET FLOODING: Site visit has taken place in July by Highways team and Milestone in West Street to look at this issue and decisions were made to add to 2 extra gullies in between No's 10 and 20 and then connecting this to the system that runs from No 20. A local resident spoke to the crew on site who informed them that there used to be an old village pond and orchard these gullies may have drained into. A few residents shared pictures of the village pond on my post on Facebook.

Milestone our supplier has undertaken the design work, costed and placed the work order, we are awaiting to hear confirmation when the work will take place, we are confident it will take place this month. The planned dates for these works are due to start w/c 15-22 November, details can be found on

<https://one.network/?GB123914186>, Traffic control will be two-way signals.

FOOTPATH RESURFACING: Anglesey Way, inc. Kirby, Deny, Hemington & Elstow Close's, Full estate Footway resurfacing. This is currently in design stage for delivery this financial year, likely to be Quarter 4 2021. Please note that this is a legacy scheme from previous administration.

SOUTH ACCESS ROAD WEST CONNECTION TO B1050 : Contracts were signed between CCC and Highways England last month and work have been schedule to be completed by February 2022. Details can be found on One Network <https://one.network/?GB123875197>

W/c 1 November BT Openreach started their work in advance of the connection work to be carried out by Sisk. Two-way signals are in place but causing delays sometimes longer during peak periods. I have discussed these issues with Homes England and have a meeting with CCC's Road Safety Partnership Delivery Manager and Street Works and Permitting Manager to find the best solutions for us locally. Temporary utility works in Willingham are not helping this issue but these are due to finish on 5 November.

Wilson's Road Bridleway resurfacing: works was completed on 15 October. We are very keen to engage and work collaboratively and will be offering a site inspection after 6 months to all the members of Cambridgeshire Local Access Forum and Longstanton Parish Council.

Details of who sits on the forum are on this link, three members of which are horse riders and 2 of whom are local representatives [Cambridgeshire Local Access Forum - Cambridgeshire County Council](#)

This site visit will allow open discussions as this is the first time this innovative surface has been used in Cambridgeshire. Therefore, we are asking all users to try this surface throughout the winter months to ensure that it is tested in all weathers.

This new surfacing will benefit the local community and be truly inclusive for all abilities of walkers, horse riders, ramblers, cyclists, wheelchair users and pushchairs. This will allow families to enjoy leisurely walks, ride their horses and cycles thus promoting health and wellbeing, as well as being a practical route for journeys to and from the area.

M11: National Highways (formerly Highways England) will be carrying out maintenance work on the M11 to replace the expansion joints and re-waterproof the junction 9 bridge. They are also carrying out some resurfacing. The work is planned to be completed over 13 weeks to Monday 13 December, subject to weather conditions.

County Wide News

Full Council

Items for the full Council meeting on Tuesday 9 November are:

- Appointment of the Council's new Chief Executive
- Various changes to the Council's constitution
- The parental leave policy for councillors
- The Pension Fund Committee annual report
- Motions on surface water flooding, resettlement of Afghan citizens, the Government's social care plan, and

cuts to Universal Credit

- Questions to Combined Authority and Fire Authority representatives, and to the Council leader and committee chairs.

20 MPH zones and HGVs

Extra powers, 20mph zones and HGVs are just a few key traffic topics that will be discussed at the Highways and Transport Committee on Thursday, 4 November.

Members of the committee will be hearing updates on various traffic management issues, including King's Parade. Whilst the replacement scheme of the King's Parade barrier is being worked on by the City Council, the joint administration is keen to look more widely at the terror threat in Cambridge. Following a briefing session with the Counter Terrorism Security Advisor, who discussed the detail of the terror threat, risk assessment and the anti-terror plan, Cllr McDonald and Cllr Bird would like to review the terror threat in Cambridge as a whole. Once discussed at committee, this work will be carried out in partnership with the City Council and the police. Another key topic is Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs), a cross-party group of members will be reviewing the County Council's HGV policy, looking at best practice and what actions could be taken to address the issues across the county, which not only impact our roads but our villages and communities. The group will also look at the criteria for Local Highways Improvement schemes or privately funded applications and the introduction of weight limits. The committee will hear how this HGV group will be working on a revised policy which will then be presented back to Highways and Transport Committee next year.

One agenda item is 20mph speed limits, the joint administration is keen to implement more 20mph schemes across the county and the committee will hear how they're proposing to do this. The council's 20mph policy and how the schemes are implemented will be reviewed working with the Vision Zero Partnership, which aims to halve road deaths and serious injuries by 2030 and to zero by 2040.

Cllr Peter McDonald, Chairman of the Highways and Transport Committee said: "The committee in November is going to be given updates on some big issues impacting our communities. I'm pleased one of those is 20mph zones, as a joint administration this was one of our priorities and we know the greatest impact in reducing traffic speeds is delivered by 20mph zones featuring traffic calming. I want to see more of these zones and the process more streamlined for parish and town councils."

The committee will also hear how Cambridgeshire County Council could apply for powers to enforce 'moving traffic offences'. The county is looking to apply to the Department of Transport for powers relating to part 6 of the Traffic Management Act 2004. This would only apply where there is a civil parking enforcement area, currently Cambridge City, and would involve enforcing moving traffic offences such as vehicles making banned turns and obstructing yellow boxes.

Cllr McDonald added: "The part 6 powers would act as a tool in reducing congestion and improving air quality and could complement our active travel plans by keeping vehicles out of cycle lanes and helping public transport."

The [committee papers](#) will be discussed at the Highways and Transport committee on 4 November. The meeting will be live streamed on the [council's YouTube channel](#).

Stay Safe on the Roads

As the clocks go back this Sunday (October 31st) we are urging people to be safe and be seen on our roads. Cambridgeshire County Council is asking road users to take extra care in the darker evenings, especially in bad weather when visibility may be reduced.

On duller days, light, bright or fluorescent clothing is much more visible, and at night, reflective elements and lights are really important, particularly if you are out running, cycling, dog-walking or horse riding.

After the clocks change you might be leaving home in the morning in the light, but find it is getting dark when you head home, so it's important to think ahead so you don't get caught out.

Drivers are urged to look out for others and to give cyclists, pedestrians, motorcyclists and horse riders plenty of space. Low sun and damp, dull conditions will also affect your view so give yourself a little bit more time and space too.

Motorists are also advised to check their vehicles and make sure their cars are ready for the winter months and to ensure every journey is road safe. Make sure lights, mirrors and windows are clean and clear and don't just rely on automatic lights, wipers and warning lights.

Cllr Peter McDonald, Chair of the Highways and Transport Committee at Cambridgeshire County Council, said: "Of all the seasons, winter requires the most care and preparation if you're to stay safe.

"People will be travelling to and from work or education in darker conditions during this time of year, so the annual 'be safe, be seen' campaign is always an important reminder."

"In winter it's even more important to check your vehicle is well maintained and serviced and always be clear on the route you are taking. Stay safe this winter and log onto [the Think! Road Safety advice page](#) for more winter handy hints."

Road safety advice includes:

- Bright or fluorescent clothes show up best by day, especially in dull or misty weather.

- By night, reflective material is best and shows up in car headlights fluorescent clothing doesn't work after dark.
- Choose routes that are well lit and cross in well-lit places, preferably marked crossings.
- Cyclists must comply with the law by using a white front light, a red back light and a red reflector at the back. It is key cyclists remain vigilant to their surroundings and reduce use of headphones and of course always wear a helmet.
- Motorists should overtake only when it is safe to do so, and drivers should pass slowly and allow plenty of room when overtaking.
- It is essential your vehicle is winter road ready. We recommend you follow the handy
- POWDERY checklist:
- **P**etrol (or diesel) - don't run out of fuel or electric charge
- **O**il - check levels once a month
- **W**ater - check radiator and screen wash once a month
- **D**amage - check wipers, lights etc for signs of wear and tear or damage
- **E**lectrics - check lights, indicators and controls are working properly
- **R**ubber - are your tyres well inflated, legal, with good tread and free from damage? ·
- **Y**ourself - are you fit to drive?

More advice on staying safe on the roads this autumn and winter is available at [the Think! Road Safety advice page](#).

Queen's green canopy

Next year marks 70 years since Queen Elizabeth II took the throne; to celebrate the anniversary and create a lasting legacy, a UK-wide tree planting initiative named The Queen's Green Canopy (QGC) has been established.

The unique scheme involves inviting people to "Plant a Tree for the Jubilee," with everyone encouraged to plant trees in the current and in the next planting season (October 2021 – March 2022 and October 2022 – March 2023). Any trees planted in this period can be badged under the project.

To drive the push locally, both Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council are working with the Lord Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire, Julie Spence, to raise awareness of the project and with residents, community groups, schools, businesses and other partners to encourage and support their participation. Everyone is invited to take part and it is easy to get involved – whether you are an expert gardener or complete novice, there is something you can do. This includes individuals planting trees on private land, community planting projects, schools planting trees on their premises and businesses setting up tree planting projects with employees.

So far, trees have been planted in three local schools: Woodston Primary School in Peterborough, Spring Meadow Infant & Nursery School in Ely and St Philip's Church of England Primary School in Cambridge. Both Councils have also committed to carrying out planting within their rural estates,

We'd like to ask for your support in encouraging community groups, schools, residents and businesses in your ward/division to create their own planting projects. More information about what, where and when to plant can be found here: [The Queen's Green Canopy Project - Cambridgeshire County Council](#).

A national map is being hosted on the national QGC website where planting projects can be added, so everyone can view the contribution being made across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. If you know of a planting project taking place in your ward/division, then please encourage the organiser to add it to the map: [Map - The Queen's Green Canopy \(queensgreencanopy.org\)](#). Plaques are also available from the Queen's Green Canopy website. We can also support the organisation of planting events, and facilitate the attendance of Mayors, the Lord Lieutenant or one of her Deputies, and other dignitaries.

Enhanced Response Area Status Vital to Protect NHS and Vital Services

Local leaders have welcomed the announcement that, following an approach from Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Councils, the Government has agreed that both areas will become an Enhanced Response Area for tackling the Covid pandemic from Monday.

They have pledged to use it to push for additional measures and resources to drive down recent rises in Covid-19 infection and to protect vulnerable people, the NHS and other vital services as the winter months approach. Rising rates in older people coupled with building pressures on local health and education services led to the Councils who are both responsible for public health to ask Government to grant the whole area 'enhanced response area' status for at least five weeks from Monday November 1 - to bring down infection rates which are currently higher in most areas than seen in January's peak.

An application by Jyoti Atri the area's joint Director of Public Health – supported by lead politicians and local health partners – for Enhanced Response Area status was agreed by Government today.

The ERA status allows us to push for additional support to:

- Accelerate and target 12-15 vaccination roll out to key areas and schools where infections are highest

- Accelerate booster vaccinations for eligible groups who have had their second vaccination more than six months ago
- Increase vaccination rate in areas with the lowest uptake

In addition, as part of ERA status the area will enter into further discussions with the DfE about additional measures it can use in schools, but in the meantime it will continue to:

- Encourage secondary school teachers or pupils who are household contacts of positive cases to take daily LFT tests
- Continue with advice given to schools before the half term that face coverings should be worn in secondary school communal areas, and that meetings happen virtually where possible
- Encourage anyone who is a household contact of a positive case to take daily rapid tests, until a negative PCR test is received

For the general population a government funded additional communications push will also begin from next week

- Recommending wear face coverings in crowded and enclosed areas where you come into contact with people you do not usually meet'
- Reminding people to get their vaccinations, test regularly and particularly before attending events, meet with others outside their households in well ventilated spaces and wash hands regularly and well

Link to further details: [Enhanced Response Area status vital to protect NHS and vital services - Cambridgeshire County Council](#)

COVID-19 Updates

OVERVIEW: Covid cases are rising across the county, largely due to the return of schools.

There has also been a rise in the number of people aged 40+ testing positive, believed to be because children are taking the virus home to their parents or carers. This is of course concerning as it means more older people may catch Covid and we know that they are far more likely to suffer more severe symptoms and end up in hospital, particularly if they are unvaccinated.

Case rates in Cambridgeshire for the week 17-23 October:

- The case rate per 100,000 for Cambridgeshire was 508.4 per 100,000 (compared to 499.5 per 100,000 in the previous week).
- Cambridge, East Cambridgeshire, and Fenland reported an increase in case rates per 100,000 compared to the previous week; South Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire rates decreased.

Vaccinations: Vaccination take-up varies by district, with Cambridge around 10 per cent behind the rest of the country which of course is concerning. In the other areas, acceptance rates are largely in line with the national average.

The end of September saw vaccinations starting to be offered to 12-15 year olds in secondary schools. Vaccinating this age group should also help to reduce the need for young people to have time off school and reduce the risk of spread of the virus within schools. Education and public health teams continue to work closely with schools to manage the high number of Covid cases and to ensure that schools can continue to keep children learning in the classroom.

Vaccination bookings www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19

Vaccination walk-in centres and pop-up clinics www.thevaccinators.co.uk

The Government has decided to end the shielding scheme for clinically vulnerable people. The County Council is therefore writing to everyone on the local shielding list to ensure they are aware of this. They will also receive a letter from the Government. The Countywide coordination hub, which has supported thousands of people since the start of the pandemic, will continue to operate, alongside a network of support hubs across the county, with anyone in need of help urged to get in touch.

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) - Community support - Cambridgeshire County Council](#)

The Government has extended the financial payments available to help people self-isolate, until the end of next March. These payments support people who will lose income as a result of having to self-isolate and will struggle to pay their bills or buy food and essentials.

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/coronavirus/coronavirus-covid-19-support-to-self-isolate>

Testing: Mobile rapid testing vehicles continue to visit sites across the county, offering on-the-spot lateral flow tests as well as test kits to take away and complete at home. You can also order kits to use at home. More information at www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/rapidtesting

INFORMATION: <https://twitter.com/CambsCC>

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/coronavirus/coronavirus-covid-19-overview>

adults and Health

Hospital waiting lists: 5.45M people across the UK are waiting for hospital treatment following the COVID-19 pandemic. Healthwatch Cambridgeshire would like to hear from residents if they or a loved one have been affected by cancellations or delayed treatment, operations or appointments. They have published a short online survey for residents to complete. <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/SQVSJO/?ct>

Education

A campaign has been launched to find more people willing to serve on the governing bodies of schools in Cambridgeshire. Schools are looking for governors who can bring a variety of skills and expertise from a wide range of backgrounds.

Governors – who are volunteers – support the strategic leadership of the school, providing support, challenge and accountability to the school’s headteacher and senior leaders. The headteacher is responsible for the operational running of the school on a day-to-day basis. Cambridgeshire County Council is particularly seeking to build diverse governing bodies which reflect the communities they serve, enabling children to succeed and thrive.

Previous experience of being a school governor is not necessary, as full induction and training will be offered. Experience of working in education is not necessary either.

Governors are usually appointed for a four-year term. Time commitments vary from school to school, but to fulfil the role effectively, governors are expected to sit on individual committees, visit the school regularly and attend full governing body meetings.

Responsibilities include working as part of a team, maintaining educational standards and performance, holding the school to account and monitoring the school’s budget.

Further information about the role and how to apply can be found here: [School governors - Cambridgeshire County Council](#)

CARBON DIOXIDE MONITORS: The government have announced that they will be providing [all schools with carbon dioxide monitors](#). They will enable schools to quickly identify where ventilation needs to be improved. We are not expecting these to be available until October half term and we will be providing further advice to schools when they are available.

RENEWABLES: Schools across Cambridgeshire will be supported in replacing gas and oil boilers with cleaner, greener heating systems thanks to a new model of funding approved by Cambridgeshire County Council, which will speed up the process and make it easier for work to be carried out. We have agreed that a combination of capital and loan funding could be used to supplement any grants, to help cover the costs of retrofitting Air Source Heat Pump (ASHP) systems in council-maintained schools where existing boilers need to be replaced. Additional measures such as LED lighting, solar panels and energy management systems will be installed at each school to offset energy costs and to help achieve the council’s commitment to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2030.

councils, responsibilities and key government funded organisations

If you have a problem or concern do not worry too much about who can solve it just ask the question to the parish clerk or a councillor and they will point you in the right direction. The organisational structure of Cambridgeshire is complex, but it is important to identify where responsibility lies.

<p>County Council Responsibilities: Education, Transport, Highways, Heritage, Social care, Libraries, Trading standards, Waste management, Maintaining their estate. Some of these services are shared between Peterborough City Council and Cambridgeshire County Council but any concerns should be directed to the county council.</p>
<p>District Council Responsibilities: Council tax payments and benefits, Household bin collections, Housing and housing benefits, Council leisure facilities, Environmental health, Residential planning.</p>
<p>Parish/ Town Council Responsibilities: Looking after community buildings, Open spaces, Allotments, Play Areas, Bus shelters.</p>
<p>Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP) ‘The local delivery body for a City Deal with central Government worth up to £500 million over 15 years, to vital improvements in infrastructure (decarbonising transport), supporting and accelerating the creation of 44,000 new jobs, 33,500 new homes and 420 additional apprenticeships.’ Partnership between Cambridge City Council, Cambridgeshire County Council, South Cambridgeshire District Council, University of Cambridge.</p>

<p>The Combined Authority, Cambridge and Peterborough, our elected Mayor ‘A combined authority (CA) is a legal body set up using national legislation that enables a group of two or more councils to collaborate and take collective decisions across council boundaries.’ What our Mayor does – Business support, skills, housing, transport, environment, international, digital connectivity, resilience, research, and strategy. New homes.</p>
<p>Police and Crime Commissioner, Cambridge, and Peterborough To support and challenge the Chief Constable to provide effective and efficient policing services for the area.</p>
<p>Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fire Authority The Fire Authority is the governing body responsible for delivering a fire and rescue service to Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. It is made up of Cambridgeshire County Councillors and Peterborough City Councillors.</p>

councillor update

Monthly email newsletter - with updates on local news as well as wider district issues which will impact us all.

To sign up please go to: https://www.sclibdems.org.uk/email_signup_over

(Note to help us manage GDPR it is easier for us to host from the LibDems webpage, but we absolutely promise this link will NOT subscribe you to LibDem news)

For all the latest news & updates so far please go to: <https://www.sclibdems.org.uk/over>

For those on social media please follow Over & Willingham Facebook group:

<https://www.facebook.com/libdems3rdMay18>

Contact Details

Please do not hesitate to contact me, if you have any questions about these, or any other matters.

Firouz Thompson: firouz.thompson@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

County Councillor for Longstanton, Northstowe & Over, Oakington & Westwick

District Councillors Report to Over Parish Council November 2021

Local Plan consultation

A six-week public consultation for the Greater Cambridge Local Plan began on 1st November and runs until 5pm on Monday 13 December 2021. This is an important opportunity to help shape the plan which will set out how Greater Cambridge will develop over the next twenty years. A number of online and in-person events will take place over the next month, where residents can discuss the plans with Council officers, and the whole Plan is available for comment online.

We strongly urge you to have your say. Visit www.greatercambridgeplanning.org/localplan for more information, including details of the online and in-person events.

Household Support Fund

The Government recently announced a Household Support Fund to provide additional help to vulnerable households with essentials over the coming months. This is similar to the Winter Support Fund which ran last year. The money is to support urgent food or fuel needs and at least half of the money must also be spent on households with children. The scheme runs from now until the end of March 2022 and Cambridgeshire County Council has received around £3.5 M with the intention that they work with District Councils and other partners to ensure the money helps those most in need. Partnership working has been essential to the public service response during the pandemic and is now working well. Some of the funding is being used to provide food vouchers to children who receive free school meals during holiday periods, including Christmas and February half term.

COVID Business support grants update

SCDC’s Business Support team has just finished administering its final tranche of COVID-related business support funding. The council has paid out £1,377,604 in Government funding to 109 South Cambridgeshire businesses since July and, as a Council, more than £38 million of Government funding has been paid out to local businesses since the onset of COVID.

Children and young people grant fund

The Children and Young People's Grant scheme that we mentioned last month is open. This is designed to support local voluntary organisations (including Parish Councils) that run groups and activities that support our young residents. Organisations can apply for funding grants of between £4,000 and £8,000 for projects which help to empower children and young people; helping them to build self-belief and make a positive difference to themselves and their community. The deadline to apply for the grants is already looming - **Wednesday 10 November**. Further information and an application form can be found here: <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/new-grant-scheme-opens-for-local-organisations-working-with-children-and-young-people/>

Good ventilation in the workplace can help reduce the spread of COVID-19

Good ventilation is one of the best ways to reduce the spread of COVID-19. The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has updated guidance to help councils and businesses identify poor ventilation in work areas and take practical steps to improve it. With winter approaching, the HSE has also revised the guidance on balancing ventilation and keeping warm. More information here: <https://www.hse.gov.uk/coronavirus/index.htm>

Greater Cambridge Planning Service in digital planning trial

The government recently announced that new digital tools have been developed to help local people have their say in the planning process. Over £1million funding has been allocated to 13 planning authorities across the country under the PropTech Engagement Fund, to evaluate new digital initiatives to make the planning process more open and accessible and improve public engagement. The new systems are to be trialled in 13 areas across England and the Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service is to receive just under £100K as one of the authorities chosen for the trial, which will run until March 2022.

Over & Willingham Facebook page

We have had a Facebook page since May 2018, but we have breathed new life into it, and it now contains much more information than before. Each Monday, we post a summary update of the current planning applications for the village, and we also post important updates from local authority sources. Go to <https://www.facebook.com/libdems3rdMay18/>

A reminder - Cambourne Christmas Market

A Christmas Market is being held in Cambourne High Street on 5th December. Further information is now available here: <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/business/south-cambridgeshire-outdoor-christmas-market/>

Bill Handley and Dawn Percival, November 2021 Cllr.handley@scambs.gov.uk 01954 200287

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/bill.handley.54540> or <https://www.facebook.com/libdems3rdMay18/>
Twitter: @bill_handley55