# Hinxton Parish Council: Minutes of meeting held 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Present:

Sam Nichols

Ceri Williams

Chiara Gardner

Sarah Robinson

**Hugh Taylor** 

**Chris Elliott** 

Emma Senior

Anne Charteris-Clerk

Cllr Peter McDonald

Members of the Public: 7

#### Part 1: Non confidential information.

Before the meeting started, Sam Nichols and Emma Senior handed in their resignations from the Parish Council.

The PC wished to thank both Sam and Emma for all their hard work over the past few years and they will be sorely missed.

Clerk will arrange for the Notice of Vacancies to be posted once go-ahead is given by the Electoral team.

CW then chaired the meeting.

A new Chair will be voted on at the next meeting.

# 2401/01 To receive and approve apologies for absence

None

#### 2401/02 To receive members' declaration of interest for items on this agenda

CW- Hunts Lane

# 2401/03 To sign and approve minutes of meeting dated 13th Nov 2023

Approved and signed off

#### 2401/04 | Exclusion of the Public.

To determine which items, if any, from Part 1 of the Agenda should be taken with the Public excluded.

### 2401/05 Report from South Cambridgeshire District Councillor P McDonald.

The report can be found in full on the website, but in brief:

#### **Green Business Programme**

South Cambridgeshire District Council has launched the Green Business Programme, an 18-month project to help local businesses go green, working in partnership with neighbouring local authorities. Grants are available to help businesses reduce their carbon footprint, reduce energy costs and work towards Net Zero.

**Cost of living support** The District Council is urging residents who may be in need of support through the cost-of-living crisis to check they are claiming all the benefits they may be entitled to. The council is also offering extensive advice on reducing energy bills and other available help, including food banks. Please do get in touch if you need any more information.

https://www.scambs.gov.uk/south-cambridgeshire-residents-urged-to-utilise-cost-of-living-support/

# Cambridge 2040' update

On 19 December, the Rt Hon Michael Gove, Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, unveiled updated plans for the Government's 'Cambridge 2040' vision, with proposals for "northwards" of 150,000 new homes around Cambridge. A joint statement from our local authorities said, "We note ... that the number of new homes ... has come down from 250,000 to 150,000, but this is still substantially more than the over 50,000 homes we have identified as needed ... – a number which will already be incredibly challenging to bring forward. We are ambitious for high quality sustainable, green growth but cannot stress enough how vital it is that Government supports us to tackle the issues that will otherwise act as roadblocks to sustainable growth." The District Council continues to stress the need to address water supply, public transport, community infrastructure and affordable housing in negotations with the Government. We are still awaiting clarity over how they might support the development of the 50,000 homes required to follow Government policy in the Local Plan, let alone any larger number.

#### **Four Day Week Trial Update**

We are now a year into the council's four-day working week trial, which is due to run until the end of March 2024. The trial was designed to test whether a four-day working week could improve the council's value for money to taxpayers, primarily by reducing its reliance on temporary staff for roles that are better filled with dedicated permanent employees. So far, the results have been very promising. Since the trial began, over half of 23 key roles previously covered by temporary agency staff have been filled by permanent staff. Jobs that had previously attracted no interest when advertised are now attracting a strong pool of applicants, allowing the council to recruit the best candidates. This has saved the council hundreds of thousands of pounds and is helping to build a more talented and efficient workforce.

# **County Council Budget**

In December I reported that we were facing a £23m gap in funding for 2024/25 as a result of inflation and other factors. This has now been closed to c.£2m.

The revised proposals focus on sustaining social services, continuing to provide free school meal vouchers for eligible children during holidays, progressing the council's commitment to pay the real living wage to people providing adult social care, and prioritising highways and cycleways maintenance across the county. However, even with a proposed council tax rise of 4.99% - 2% of which will be dedicated to adult social care services – the combination of demand for services, inflation and the ending of some government grants will still leave a £2m gap in the 2024/5 budget.

#### Flooding and fallen Trees report.

New team created to look into this, latest details can be found online.

### 2401/06

# **Updates**

- a. Wellcome Trust Campus Development. Noone from the PC was able to attend the recent Community Liaison Group meeting held just before Christmas. The survey was thyen discussed as there was some confusion as to whether a full survey or a condition survey was needed. It was agreed that Clerk would contact James Tipping (Planner at SCDC) for confirmation, then to arrange for survey to be done when the Village Hall was not booked, Payment would come out of the reserves held for Village Hall work.
- b. Village Hall extension. See above.
- c. Wetlands Committee. Awaiting Minutes from the last meeting- these are now held every 3 months.
- d. Playground. A revised quote of £500 was received from Kompan, Proposed by CW, seconded by SR that the repair for the Pirate ship would be booked.

- e. Highways Local Highways Improvement application for Hunts Lane to be made one way has been submitted by Clerk.
- f. Ford signage. Parts needed to attach to poles have now been received, CG to put signs up.
- g. Gritting scheme. This has been applied for but nothing received as yet, it was agreed to put bin by the Village Hall.
- h. War Memorial refurbishment. Clerk still waiting for quote for the work to be done.
- i. Six free trees- order placed.

#### 2401/07

# New items for discussion and correspondence. Civil Parking Enforcement in South Cambridgeshire

Cambridgeshire County Council have now had the final formal confirmation from the Government regarding Civil Parking Enforcement. The scheme is now live across South Cambridgeshire. As outlined in the briefing session for councillors and parishes in November, notices will be issued until the end of January. These do not have a fine attached. From 1 February 2024, Cambridgeshire County Council's Civil Parking Enforcement Officers will issue penalty charge notices which include a fine for parking on restrictions such as double yellow lines.

For more information visit www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/cpe

Letter received from resident: White fences have fairly recently been erected, by the contractors building the housing estate along the A1301, from the New Road exit to the Genome roundabout. These have made it even more difficult to see the traffic coming from the right than usual. The effect is a white blur and traffic can only be seen clearly as it comes around the bend. It is difficult to pull out of New Road and also turn in especially on a dull day and with so many cars that are "road coloured", ie beige and silver. We need to be able to see as far as the roundabout as we could before. Is it possible for the contractors to move the fences back to the original hedge line so that the drivers that live around here can go about our business safely?

Also it would be helpful if there were signs that say "Ford closed" that could be placed at the entrances to the village. "Road closed" is not specific enough. We have enough cars using the village as a short cut to avoid the hold ups at the awful Sawston roundabout as it is. When the ford is closed we have all the cars turning around and going back through the village, often at speed.

Clerk has forwarded the letter to Urban and Civic, no answer as yet, however with the Highway upgrades, this layout may be changing. The situation will be monitered. Ford- there have been many discussions with Highways about this, it was thought that if signs are put up at the entrance to the village, then it may encourage more people to use this as a rat-run as it would show when the road is open. At present, once people know the Ford is shut then they don't often come back and risk having to turn round. No easy solution.

#### 2401/08

# Public participation time - 15 minutes allowed

#### 2401/09

**Precept and Budget**- decide on the Precept for the year 2024/2025 using Budget This was discussed at length, it was decided that due to the cost of living problem, that the Precept will remain at the same figure as last year-£16,585.00 Proposed by CE, seconded by CG all in favour.

2401/10 | FINANCE

Bank Balances at 31st Dec 2023

Current A/C £21,266.73 Business /AC £11,143.58

Village Hall sec 106 /AC £7560.49

Total: £39,970.80

### 2401/11 | Payments for approval- 2 months for regular payments

These were approved and signed off.

| Drax              | Street Lighting                     | £3.80    |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------|----------|
| Clerk/HMRC        | salary/tax/ ink/paper /WFH expenses | £1076.90 |
| 1 & 1 internet    | Emails &website                     | £94.80   |
| Hugo Fox          | Website                             | £71.98   |
| Southern Electric | Electricity                         | £315.90  |
| M Boagey          | 3 months editing Hinxton News +ink  | £364.00  |

#### 2401/12 | Payment Received

| LLoyds         | Interest     | £41.94  |
|----------------|--------------|---------|
| Allotment rent | rent         | £130.00 |
| Urban & Civic  | Hinxton News | £300.00 |

# 2401/13 | Planning Applications Received.

Local Planning Authority: South Cambridgeshire District Council

Proposal: Certificate Of Lawfulness Under S192 for installation of 8 solar PV panels to rear

roof slopes.

Site address: 39 High Street Hinxton Cambridgeshire

Reference: 23/04830/CL2PD

Public Access link: https://applications.greatercambridgeplanning.org/online-

applications/PLAN/23/04830/CL2PD

No objection.

Local Planning Authority: South Cambridgeshire District Council

Proposal: AHU renewal and associated pipework to the externals of the Hinxton Hall at

Wellcome Genome Campus

Site address: Hinxton Hall, Residential Training Centre Cambridge Road Hinxton

Reference: 23/04442/LBC

Public Access Link: https://applications.greatercambridgeplanning.org/online-

applications/PLAN/23/04442/LBC

No objection

Local Planning Authority: South Cambridgeshire District Council

Proposal: S19 to vary condition 2 (Approved plans) of listed building consent 21/05635/LBC

(Single storey sunroom extension) to reflect minor amendments to the elevations.

Site address: Hinxton Grange Cambridge Road Hinxton

Reference: 23/04251/S19LB

Public Access Link: <a href="https://applications.greatercambridgeplanning.org/online-">https://applications.greatercambridgeplanning.org/online-</a>

applications/PLAN/23/04251/S19LB

Local Planning Authority: South Cambridgeshire District Council

Proposal: T1 Birch - Sever ivy.

T2 Oak - Remove reduced lower laterals and other lower branches to 2m above ground

T3 -Holly - Crown lift to 1.5m above ground level and crown reduce by 1.5m to leave as a

dome
T4 - Sycamore - Crown lift to 1.8m and sever ivy at base.

T5- Birch - Crown lift to 3m above ground level and sever ivy at base.

T6 - Sycamore by wall - Fell.

T7 - Elder beneath Holly - Fell.

T10 - Laburnum - Remove deadwood and sever ivy. Site address: 58 High Street Hinxton Cambridgeshire

Reference: 23/1506/TTCA

Public Access link: <a href="https://applications.greatercambridgeplanning.org/online-">https://applications.greatercambridgeplanning.org/online-</a>

applications/PLAN/23/1506/TTCA

No objection

Local Planning Authority: South Cambridgeshire District Council

Proposal: 5 Day Notice - Please see plan attached extracted from Tree Condition Survey dated 27 Sep 23 - the trees in question are Nos 641 Mature Horse Chestnut, 644 Sycamore dead and 649 Mountain Ash - dead.

Advice is to fell all 3 to ground level, noting that MD Eastside Tree Care (qualified arborist) inspected all three trees and advised that the horse chestnut be removed in light of known honey fungus attacks to neighbour's trees, loss of a major limb from the tree last winter, and the position of the tree close to a public footpath and a neighbouring residential property.

Site address: St Mary And St Johns Church Church Green Hinxton

Reference: 23/1494/TTCA

Public Access link: <a href="https://applications.greatercambridgeplanning.org/online-">https://applications.greatercambridgeplanning.org/online-</a>

applications/PLAN/23/1494/TTCA

12th Jan 2024 deadline

No objection

Local Planning Authority: South Cambridgeshire District Council

Proposal: Submission of details required by condition 10 (Car parking Management Plan) of

planning permission 21/05384/REM

Site address: Wellcome Trust Genome Campus Cambridge Road Hinxton

Reference: 21/05384/COND10

Public Access link: <a href="https://applications.greatercambridgeplanning.org/online-">https://applications.greatercambridgeplanning.org/online-</a>

applications/PLAN/21/05384/COND10

2401/14 | Decision Notices

2401/15 | Items to report for inclusion in the next meeting

2401/16 Dates of next Meetings 7.30pm Village Hall:

Planning meeting if required Feb 12<sup>th</sup> 2024
Full Meeting March 11<sup>th</sup> 2024

**Part II: Confidential Information** 

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.