

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 10 January 2022 at 7.30pm

Present – Simon Buggey, Caroline Ilott, Andy Brown, Jane Trevanion, John O’Neill, Sheryl Williamson, Peter Howell, Peter Tye, District Cllr. Deborah Roberts and County Cllr. Peter McDonald. There were 0 members of the public present.

- 1. Apologies for Absence** – Geoff Barnes
- 2. Laurentian Reporting** – Peter Howell
- 3. Open Forum for Public Participation** - none
- 4. Members Declarations of Interest for items on the Agenda** – none
- 5. To approve and sign the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on 6 December 2021**

The minutes and confidential minutes were approved. Proposed Jane Trevanion, seconded Sheryl Williamson. All agreed.

Simon Buggey signed the minutes.

6. Matters arising from these minutes:

- Cllr. McDonald advised that he had a call set up this week with Rob Lewis, Cambs. County Council Education Officer, to discuss the Preschool grant application and awaited confirmation of a meeting with Rob Lewis and the Foxton Preschool committee which he will chase. Sheryl Williamson added that the Preschool committee had been promised a meeting and a grant application had been submitted but there had been no response from the County Council. Sheryl emphasised the issue of the school’s falling roll number and the importance of a feeder preschool to protect the school’s future.
- Simon Buggey advised that village hall WIFI would be installed this week.
- RGT/ Village Hall/ PC relationship and payment process proposal was considered by RGT and the first phase of identifying the relationship structure and interfaces is complete.
- Caroline Ilott had submitted the Parish Council’s response to the Local Plan consultation.
- Caroline Ilott is continuing to chase the repair of the Mortimers Lane sign which was supposed to be repaired in mid-December.
- The Clerk had (i) submitted the precept application; (ii) set up Unity Trust current and savings accounts (the DDs and standing orders still need to be switched from Barclays); (iii) the bank mandate with updated signatories had been sent to Barclays (some ID documentation awaited); (iv) Aubergine quote for new accessible website accepted (the clerk needs to start the set up process with Aubergine); (v) accepted quote from Shelford Trees; (vi) booked SLCC clerk training; (vii) updated Foxton Cricket Club on outcome of S106 mower application; (viii); published new policies; (ix) confirmed new date for Queen’s Platinum Jubilee picnic to Mrs Pusey and Foxton Cricket Club; and (x) responded to access complaint

Action Cllr. McDonald

- Call with Rob Lewis or other senior officers to discuss Preschool bid and chase confirmation of meeting with Preschool
- Arrange further meeting with Rowland Potter, Head of Transport at the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority to consider extending Harston bypass feasibility study to include a bypass for Foxton.

Action Cllr. Roberts

- Follow up with SCDC environmental health re signs to remind residents to keep dogs under control
- Ask finance department for information about public works loans

Action all

- Provide feedback on Jupiter Play design prior to next Parish Council meeting
- Review recreation ground rules prepared by Sheryl Williamson before the February Parish Council meeting

Action Andy Brown, Caroline Ilott, Peter Howell, Peter Tye

- Meeting with quantity surveyor for S106 project (AB, CI)
- Meeting with resident to discuss recreation ground provision for older children (CI, PT, PH)

Action Caroline Ilott

- Ask the SCDC S106 officer if hybrid meeting equipment and hardwire mesh could be funded by S106.

Action R&A

- Confirm all contractors are able to continue existing contracts until at least the new Parish Council is elected

Action Simon Buggy

- WIFI setup at village hall and organise purchase of mesh
- Respond to FGA re Platinum Jubilee tree planting enquiry

Action Clerk

- Publish date of Platinum Jubilee picnic on 5 June 2022
- Prepare letter to residents of the Green re parking
- Notice about the Hardman Road fence repair work on Facebook and the website.
- Prepare a letter to send to the owner of 12 St Laurence Road to request removal of the bins and hard standing and to reinstate the ground
- Email Foxton Football Club advising that the Parish Council agreed to uphold its decision made on 6 December 2021 not to enter into an agreement for its grant application.
- Email sports clubs to advise of decision re informal goal
- Email Foxton Cricket Club re cordoning off equipment
- Respond to request for pitch hire from Haslingfield Colts
- Update MAYD re Foxton Parish Council representation

7. District Councillor's Report

Cllr. Roberts advised that she was disappointed that Julie Ayre, one of the lead planning officers at SCDC, was leaving her role as this would be a great loss to the planning department. Cllr. Roberts expressed her concern that there was a lack of experienced officers in the planning department particularly with the next Local Plan in mind. Cllr Roberts advised that the Cambridge Independent had reported concern amongst various bodies regarding water supply for the development proposed in the next Local Plan.

8. County Councillor's Report – see Appendix 1

Cllr. McDonald noted that there was a national shortage of planning officers and this was partly down to officers moving to private development companies.

Cllr. McDonald noted that COVID 19 cases in the area are high, 1594 per 100k (compared to 40 per 100k previously) but it was encouraging that ICU admissions remained low (there were 254 ICU admissions at Addenbrookes during the previous peak and now there are 6 – largely unvaccinated cases). There are new guidelines for the isolation period which has reduced to 7 days with a negative lateral flow test on day 6 and 7, long covid and visiting arrangements in care homes. The household support fund is designed to help those who are eligible with the cost of energy and living and a business support grant is available to business affected by Covid (see Appendix 1 for more details).

9. Any Planning, Infrastructure, R&A, S106 and Police updates will be provided in writing and published prior to the meeting

Caroline Ilott advised that Shelford Trees will carry out the approved clearance work on 17 January 2022 and notice will be given to the public that this area will be cordoned off and should be avoided on the day.

10. Resident request, following an accident in the village involving a loose dog, for village signs indicating that dogs must be kept on leads in residential areas

Caroline Ilott advised that a resident on Caxton Lane had reported to the Parish Council that her mother had been injured by a dog which was off lead. Caroline advised that the Parish Council had no powers to put up road signs. Highways advised that such incidents should be reported to the police. The clerk asked District Cllr. Roberts if SCDC would be able to put up a sign to remind residents to keep dogs under control. Cllr. Roberts thought this was unlikely and advised that SCDC no longer had a dog warden. Cllr Roberts will follow this up with environmental health at SCDC.

11. Infrastructure

a. Travel Hub update

Andy Brown advised that he had attended the GCP executive board meeting on 9 December 2021 where he was given the right to be heard alongside a councillor from Barrington Parish Council, however, disappointingly their concerns on behalf of the Parish Council were ignored. The board raised some concerns, and there was some wording amendment, however the proposal was approved to proceed to planning application. Andy has contacted Anthony Browne MP for support and remains in contact with Barrington Parish Council to discuss the next step which is likely to be objecting to the proposal on planning grounds once an application has been submitted. Concerns about the proposal have received good publicity in the media.

Cllr. McDonald advised that he had met Rowland Potter, Head of Transport at the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority, at the opening of the new Soham station and discussed the closure of Foxton level crossing for about twenty minutes. They agreed to convene a formal meeting to consider whether the terms of reference of the Harston bypass feasibility study could be extended to include a bypass for Foxton.

b. LHI feasibility study – update

A report had been circulated.

Caroline Ilott advised that the Parish Council submitted its Local Highway Improvement (LHI) bid which was approved by the Parish Council at its meeting in September 2021. A feasibility study dated 17 December 2021 had been received from County Council Highways with costings for all the items included in the LHI bid. The total costs from the feasibility study are £25,136.31. The maximum County Council Highways will contribute is £15,000 which means that the Parish Council would have to contribute £10,136.31 rather than the budgeted amount of £4900. It was proposed to remove the 3 sets of double gateways from the LHI bid saving between £5000 and £6000. This would bring the bid back into budget. These items, which although good to have, are not as important as the solar powered MVAS units, the buffer zones and the road markings. There is a LHI County Council Highways panel meeting on 31 January 2022.

Proposed Caroline Ilott, seconded Simon Bugey. All agreed.

Cllr. Petr McDonald left the meeting

12. S106 update

a. Approve the new recreation ground outline plan in order to pursue grant applications

A report and supporting documents had been circulated.

Caroline Ilott advised that the layout plans prepared by Jupiter Play had been circulated and the printed plans will be brought to the Parish Council meeting in February. Over the last 2 to 3 years the Parish Council has been getting information and views from residents and residents' groups on what should be done to improve play and recreation facilities on Foxton Recreation Ground.

The latest design has tried to take into account the various requests and issues raised by residents.

In order to progress this project a project manager is needed. James Lord, Andy Brown, Catherine Cairns and Caroline Ilott are meeting a quantity surveyor, with experience in this field and of working on a similar project recently, to see if he may be able to advise the Parish Council and to find out how much this would cost.

The Parish Council has previously agreed to ring fence £90K of S106 reserves for the playground project. The rest of the funds will need to be grant sourced. Catherine Cairns and Caroline Ilott have identified some major grant funding bodies: Mick George, Amey Corporation and FCC Community Action (was WREN – Wadebridge Renewable Energy Network). Grants from these sources are made quarterly. It is also hoped that funds may be available from RGT – discussions are ongoing. It is not envisaged that the Parish Council will be in a position to start any work until September 2022 at the earliest, but this could change.

One key issue with these grants is that they are paid retrospectively. The grant is approved by the grant making body in advance but the grant payments are made retrospectively which means the Parish Council would need working capital to pay contractors before the tranches of the grant are released to the Parish Council. It would mean that the Parish Council would need to get a loan to underwrite these upfront costs. Cllr Roberts will enquire with the SCDC finance department about public works loans.

If any costs go over £25K, the Parish Council must go through the local government tendering process and it is hoped that the quantity surveyor can advise on this process.

Caroline Ilott advised that now is the time to reflect on the design by Jupiter Play and whether any of the design needs to be changed. Councillors were asked to provide any feedback on the design and costings to Caroline prior to the next Parish Council meeting.

Simon Buggey noted that the design brief had been met and scaled down to be more realistic but this was still a large project for a small village.

Caroline Ilott noted that grounds works and post project maintenance had not yet been costed.

Andy Brown asked if the Parish Council would be able to afford phase 2 of the project (fitness equipment) considering the costs of phase 1 and asked that the two phases are considered together.

Jane Trevanion added that the Parish Council had been looking at improving the play area for sometime and the ageing play equipment needed replacing. This is an exciting opportunity to improve the children's recreation amenities but it is important not to forget the needs of older village residents.

Caroline Ilott noted that if the Parish Council is unable to procure grant funding the design will need to be scaled down further.

Peter Tye has some concern about the landscaping requirements, water supply, the use of wood for play equipment, ongoing maintenance and the design for the teen area. The costings and delivery charge seems high.

Caroline Ilott noted that new play equipment has been promised to the village for a long time. The costs given in the design report are indicative and the design will go out to tender. The equipment offered in the design is made of Robinia wood which comes with a fifteen-year guarantee.

A local resident had expressed some concern about the provision for older children and put forward some suggestions. Caroline Ilott, Peter Tye and Peter Howell will meet with the resident and report to the next S106 working group meeting.

The Parish Council thanked Catherine Cairns and James Lord for their invaluable and expert input into the design of the project.

The next S106 working group meeting is on 2 February 2022.

13. R&A

All contractors, bar one that has yet to be contacted, have agreed to let their current contract run with current costs until at least the new Parish Council. The allocation of money for the village warden has been spent and therefore no further work should be approved unless absolutely necessary.

Parking in and around The Green. The Clerk will prepare a letter to residents of the green asking them, their family members and their visitors to refrain from parking on the green or in the entrance to the access road. If a letter is unsuccessful County Council Highways have confirmed that large logs could be placed on the edges of the green as a preventative measure.

Work on the Hardman Road fence will begin on Monday 7 February 2022. The Clerk will put a notice of this on Facebook and the website.

a. Consider R&A responsibilities – in particular can bins, the Green and trees be managed outside of R&A – no changes required at present

b. Additional bins – cost to Parish Council £246.00 per bin plus installation unless provided by SCDC – R&A propose there is no Parish Council budget for additional bins at this time

Proposed Sheryl Williamson, seconded Caroline Ilott. All agreed

c. Unauthorised development of a bin hard standing and step on Parish Council land at St Laurence Road

The Clerk will prepare a letter to send to the owner of 12 St Laurence Road to remove the bins and hardstanding and to reinstate the ground.

d. Football Club grant application – update

Caroline Ilott, Peter Howell and Peter Tye met representatives of the adult football club online on 6 January 2022. It was explained that the land concerned belonged to RGT and as a charity it cannot enter into an exclusive agreement as this is against charity law. It would also not be in the best interest of the Parish Council. The Parish Council agreed to uphold its decision made on 6 December 2021 not to enter into such an agreement and to write to the Football Club to let them know that this matter is now closed.

e. Informal goal – update – CI

R&A proposed that the football goal should not be removed from the recreation ground despite the issues of it being moved around by its users. Caroline Ilott suggested the following options: (i) remove the goal from the recreation ground until a suitable permanent site has been found; (ii) do nothing and allow the goal to be moved around the recreation ground; (iii) fix the goal in a permanent place; and (iv) put the wheels back on so it can be moved more easily.

It was considered that (i) the goal would unlikely be moved by its users to near residents' houses as the grass was long and uneven at these locations; (ii) the wheels were better left off the goal as they mark the recreation ground; (iii) if the goal is moved around regularly, no one area would get churned up; (iv) the ground anchors had been pulled up by users and left on the recreation ground which could be a

hazard; and (v) the informal goal was a good amenity for older children and well used.

Andy Brown asked if there could be any insurance implications and it was considered that the goal would be covered by the Parish Council's public liability insurance.

It was agreed to leave the goal as it is on the recreation ground, without wheels and ground anchors. The clerk will prepare an email to explain to the football clubs and cricket club the Parish Council's decision and reasoning.

f. Cricket Club safety of cordoning off equipment and run off - propose meeting with Cricket Club to discuss options

A risk assessment and report had been circulated. Peter Tye advised that the Football Association's recommended football pitch run off was 3 meters and the scaffold poles used to cordon off the cricket area were within this distance. The poles themselves are made of heavy metal and, although covered with foam, pose a risk to players and other recreation ground users. Sheryl Williamson noted the height of the poles was dangerous. The Parish Council understood the Cricket Club's requirement to cordon off the area to protect the pitch.

It was agreed to write to Foxton Cricket Club to request that the scaffold poles are removed as they pose a health and safety risk and be replaced with plastic flexible posts. The Parish Council will send links with the suggested equipment that should be used. Proposed Sheryl Williamson, seconded Peter Howell. All agreed.

g. Approve planting location of 6 trees from SCDC

The R&A proposed that these trees should be planted outside of the woods as there are already plenty of trees there. Caroline Ilott advised that Catherine Cairns, with her understanding and experience of trees, suggested that the beech trees could be planted in the wood to replace the Ash die back. They are slow growing and would not be suitable for the chalk recreation ground. The terms for the tree donation are that they must be planted by February. Peter Howell advised that the trees have been heeled into pots. It was agreed to plant the beech trees in the wood and to keep the remaining trees in pots until a suitable location for them has been decided.

Simon Buggey added that the Parish Council had received correspondence from the Foxton Garden Association (FGA) about a possible tree planting project to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. It was suggested that the FGA could contribute to boundary planting for the new playground project.

h. Request from Haslingfield Colts for football pitch hire in January and February

The Parish Council does not normally hire out pitches. The Clerk will respond to explain that the pitches are used by Foxton clubs much of the time and there isn't capacity for any additional pitch hire. When not in use the pitches have time to recover from match playing.

14. Finance

a. Quotes

i. WIFI mesh – up to £500 on Amazon (S106) – SB

It was noted that the village hall had expressed concern about this proposal and an alternative proposal for a fixed infrastructure had been circulated.

Cllr. O' Neill advised that the advantage of going with this type of mesh is that it is cheap, easy to install and extendable with privacy and parental controls. A fixed infrastructure would be more costly and could take months to install. The village hall had already had booking cancellations due to there being no WIFI available. It is likely that the cost of the mesh from Amazon would be between £200- £300.

It was considered that there was an element of risk with a plug-in mesh as the units could be knocked or removed.

Peter Howell advised that the village hall had been surveyed for cable installation and WIFI requirements and the subsequent proposal was the quality and fit for purpose solution which would be an enhancement to the village hall building. Domestic style nodes may not last long and may not give good coverage.

Peter Tye asked why the former proposal for hard cabling had not been followed up sooner.

John O'Neill explained that the current proposal and the proposal for hard cabling were not mutually exclusive but the latter could take three months to install.

Caroline Ilott will ask the SCDC S106 officer if hard cabling and other recommended equipment for WIFI would be covered by S106 village hall improvement funds.

The Parish Council approved up to £500 expenditure on a WIFI mesh from Amazon. 6 in favour, 1 abstaining, 1 against.

ii. Repair of skatepark/ compound boundary fence £728.40

The Parish Council does not have a budget for this and it was considered to be an RGT responsibility being located and forming a boundary on RGT land. It will be brought to the next RGT meeting.

iii. Wildflower seed for Dovecot meadow - £87.49 +VAT for 2 bags of 250g seeds inc. delivery charge (£12 from zero carbon grant and £75.49 from PC open spaces budget

SCDC had confirmed that the remaining £12 of the grant can be spent despite it being after the deadline. The remainder of the cost will be met by the Parish Council using S106 funds. This will be the Parish Council's contribution towards the project in accordance with the grant application. Proposed Andy Brown, seconded Simon Buggey. All agreed

b. Approval of payments

The bank reconciliation, account reports and bank statements have been circulated and checked and approved by Simon Buggey.

The following payments were approved. Simon Buggey, seconded Peter Howell. All agreed.

Receipts

- | | |
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| 1. VAT reclaim | £3908.80 |
| (of which Parish Council: £1957.40 and RGT £1951.40) | |

- | | |
|---|---------|
| 2. Opus refund of overcharge for unmetered lights | £108.63 |
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Payments

Payments made (prior agreed)

- | | |
|--|-----------------|
| 3. Salary (SO) - LGA 1972 s112 | £827.04 |
| 4. Pension - LGA 1972 s112, s111 | £55.46 |
| 5. Google Ireland Gmail - LGA 1972 s111, s142 | £46.00 |
| 6. Opus Metered street lights - Parish Councils Act 1957, s3; Highways Act 1980 s301 | £32.60 inc VAT |
| 7. Opus Unmetered street lights - Parish Councils Act 1957, s3; Highways Act 1980 s301
Charged twice – refund requested | £218.48 inc VAT |
| 8. Foxton Village Hall office hire (3/4) - LGA 1972 s111 | £80.06 |
| 9. Peter Evans village warden duties (Nov) - Open Spaces Act 1906 s9-10 | £183.75 |
| 10. Foxton Parish Council Unity Trust A/C cheque deposit
LGA 1972 s111 | £500.00 |
| 11. Clerk expenses – recorded postage of bank mandate x 2
LGA 1972 s111 | £6.48 |
| 12. SLCC – practitioners conference - LGA 1972 s111 | £90.00 inc VAT |
| 13. Melbourn library – donation - S137 | £100 |

Payments to be authorised

- | | |
|--|-----------------|
| 1. Parish Clerk Salary
inc phone & broadband £34.50/ home allowance £22 - LGA 1972 s112 | £292.16 |
| 2. HMRC National insurance & income tax - LGA 1972 s112/ LGA 1972 s111 | £143.57 |
| 3. Parish Clerk Expenses – mileage and Norton protection - LGA 1972 s111 | £31.52 |
| 4. Foxton Parish Council Top up Treasurers Account to £500 - LGA 1972 s111 | £90.00 |
| 5. Jupiter Play & Leisure design work for Foxton park – S106
(on previous agenda – not yet approved) | £4500 inc VAT |
| 6. Red Shoes Accounting – payroll - LGA 1972 s112/ LGA 1972 s111 | £55.80 inc VAT |
| 7. Foxton Village Hall office hire (4/4) - LGA 1972 s111 | £80.06 |
| 8. Foxton Village Hall meeting room hire x 2 - LGA 1972 s111 | £31.20 |
| 9. Aubergine annual domain registration - LGA 1972 s111 | £120.00 inc VAT |
| 10. Cambridgeshire County Council Dovecot annual rent
£105 + £8.68 from Dec 2020
LGA 1972 s126, Public Health Act 1875, s164 | £113.68 |
| 11. Foxton Cricket Club Dec grass cutting - Open Spaces Act 1906 s9-10 | £300 |
| 12. Peter Evans – village warden duties (9.5hrs) - Open Spaces Act 1906 s9-10 | £166.25 |
| 13. Recreation Ground Trust – HMRC VAT reimbursement - LGA 1972 s111 | £1951.40 |

*Local Government Act

15. MAYD update and Parish Council representation

The Clerk advised that MAYD had conducted a consultation with young people on the MAYD youth club provision. There are some developments which may make the provision more accessible to Foxton such as holding activities at Melbourn college straight after school to reduce transport needs and touring sport provision around the villages in the summer. No councillors have capacity to represent the Parish Council at MAYD meetings at the moment but the clerk will ask to be kept updated by email. MAYD representation can be revisited when the new Parish Council is elected.

16. Items for next agenda – to be submitted to the Parish Clerk by email.

- Approval of updated recreation ground rules
- Tree survey due in May – Peter Tye to provide quotes for approval

17. Date and time of next Parish Council Meeting: Monday 7 February 2022 at 7.30pm

Motion to exclude Public and Press: Section 1 (2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 where publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted on the following agenda items 18 to 19

Proposed Simon Buggey, seconded Caroline Ilott. All agreed.

Cllr. Roberts left the meeting.

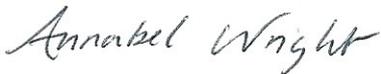
18. Parish Clerk employment: (i) variation of contract (hours and pension); (ii) change of job description to include RGT minute secretary and approval of letter agreement; and (iii) proposal for uplift in paypoint scale

Due to its sensitive and confidential nature pertaining to employment, this item was discussed in a closed meeting of the Parish Council.

19. Recreation ground access, complaint and potential legal action re access and access maintenance – update and quotes for legal advice

The meeting was closed to consider legal advice and due to the sensitive and confidential nature of the dispute.

The meeting closed at 10.00pm.



Annabel Wright
 Foxton Parish Clerk
 18 January 2022

Appendix 1

Report for Parish Councils**Resumption of green bin collections**

Collections are planned to resume next week, on Wednesday 12 January, in-line with the previously published Christmas bin collection schedule. We are working on the plan for that resumption, and communicating it, now.

Business grants update 1: Hospitality and Leisure Grant and Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG) top-up

On 21st December The Chancellor, Rishi Sunak announced £1 billion in support for businesses most impacted by Omicron across the UK. Amongst other support, businesses in the hospitality and leisure sectors in England will be eligible for one-off grants of between £2,700- £6,000 depending on premises rateable value. Additional discretionary funding will be made available for Councils to support other businesses affected.

My best guess is currently that businesses will be able to start applying during the latter part of January / early February. We are in the process of updating our website to reflect this information.

Business grants update 2: Coronavirus Additional Relief Fund (CARF)

Back in March of this year, the Government announced funding for a new business rates relief to help those business that had been impacted by Covid in 2020/21 but had been ineligible for the other business rates reliefs. The announcement was made in response to a number of businesses submitting appeals to the Valuation Office Agency (VOA), as they believed the pandemic constituted a “material change of circumstances” in relation to their premises’ rateable value. Before the relief would be made available, Government first wanted to pass legislation to prevent Covid from being a reason for an appeal to the VOA. This legislation received royal assent on Wednesday 15 December.

S Cambs have now received guidance from Central Government regarding a new rates relief scheme – the Coronavirus Additional Relief Fund (CARF), along with a funding allocation of up to £6.3m for us at South Cambridgeshire District Council. The guidance sets out that we should design a new local relief scheme to distribute the funding, which is available to reduce the 2021/22 business rates bill. The guidance states that the scheme should:

- Not award relief to ratepayers that are, or would have been, eligible for the Extended Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Discount, or the Nursery Discount
- Not award relief in respect of a property when it is unoccupied
- Direct support towards ratepayers who have been adversely affected by the pandemic and have been unable to adequately adapt to that impact.

We are currently exploring options for scheme design to ensure support is targeted to those impacted, and will then need to turn our attention to the administrative details. This is a considerable piece of work and it may take some weeks before the scheme is launched. Please be assured that we will endeavour to launch the scheme as soon as possible. Details of the relief announcement are on our website.

Business support events and webinars

S Cambs is offering a series of free to attend events and webinars that provide a chance for local businesses to engage with Council services and develop skills to help you run your business successfully.

Looking after your mental health

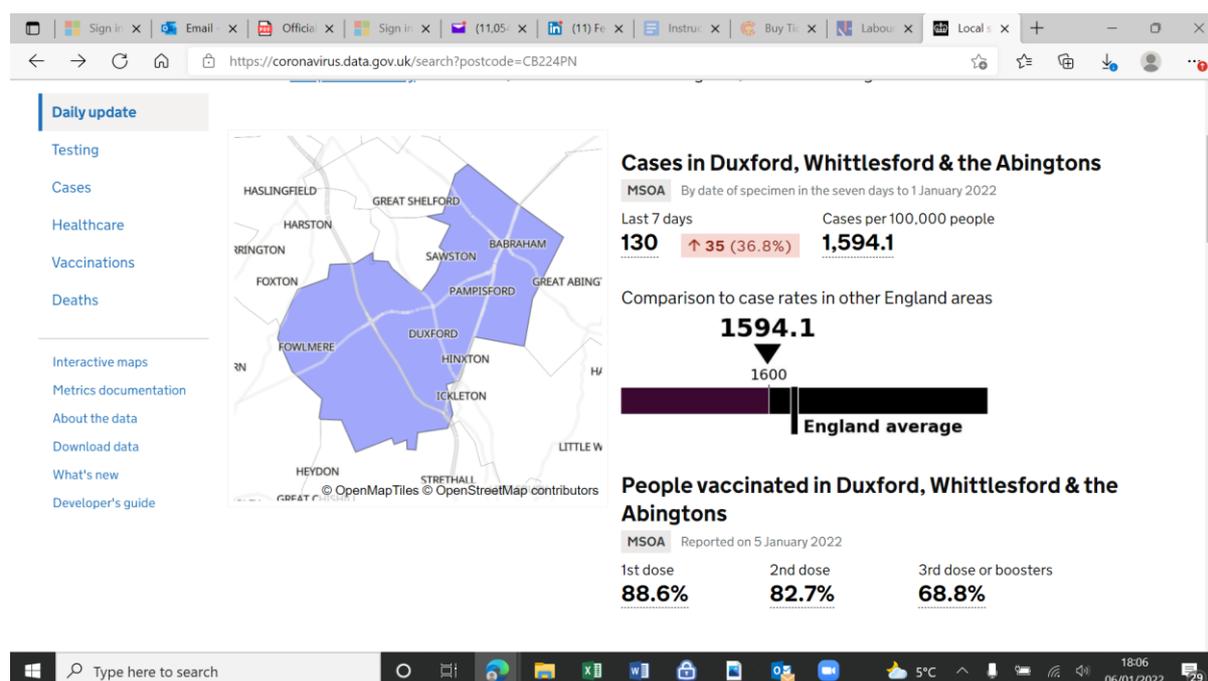
The past year has been a difficult time to run a business and many people's mental health has suffered as a result. We are running a free webinar on 20 January from 12 noon to 1pm exploring how to look after yourself as well as your business.

In this inspirational and solution focused sessions, our guest speakers Nick Elston and Zoe Thompson will talk through their lived experience and ways to help you cope in these challenging times. Themes include:

- Mental health and wellbeing
- 'What you do next that counts'
- Resilience, positivity and aspiration
- Acceptance and awareness.

Cambridgeshire County Report

Current Covid & Vaccination Status Locally



Confirmatory PCR tests to be temporarily suspended for positive lateral flow test results.

From 11 January in England, people who receive positive lateral flow device test results for COVID-19 will be required to self-isolate immediately. They will not be required to take a confirmatory PCR. This is a temporary measure while COVID-19 rates remain high across the UK. Whilst levels of COVID-19 are high, the vast majority of people with positive LFD results can be confident that they have COVID-19.

Stay at home guidance for households with possible COVID-19 infection

The self-isolation advice for people with coronavirus (COVID-19) has changed. It is now possible to end self-isolation after 7 days, following 2 negative LFD tests taken 24 hours apart. The first LFD test should not be taken before the sixth day. COVID-19: guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection

Other Covid Updates

Visiting arrangements in care homes

On 30 December, the Department of Health and Social Care updated the guidance on how care homes can support families and visitors to visit residents. The guidance has been updated to reflect that resident lateral flow device testing following visits out of the care home is required every second day for ten days, and to add that nominated visitors should remain the same wherever possible.

Guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/visiting-care-homes-during-coronavirus>

COVID-19: guidance for grassroots sport participants, providers and facility operators

On 23 December, the Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport updated the guidance on COVID-19 measures for grassroots sport participants, providers and facility operators.

The guidance sets out information for the public and sport providers on how to organise and participate in grassroots sport and physical activity as safely as possible. This includes advice on steps people can take to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission within the sport environment. The update includes new information on face coverings, who should work from home, and the types of venues and events that are required by law to check visitors' COVID status as a condition of entry.

Guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-coronavirus-covid-19-measures-for-grassroots-sport-participants-providers-and-facility-operators>

Find help and support if you have long COVID

On 24 December, the Department of Health and Social Care updated the guidance for those who have long COVID. The guidance has been updated with advice for those who have signs and symptoms of long COVID, those who have long COVID and are unable to work, those who have long COVID and need support to find, return to or stay in work, and for those who have a child with long COVID.

Guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/find-help-and-support-if-you-have-long-covid>

Household Support Fund

A reminder on the new support fund which aims to help those struggling to pay for food, energy or other essential items this winter has been launched. Cambridgeshire County Council has been allocated £3.58 million as part of the Government's Household Support Fund to help people who need financial support.

Household Support Fund – letter to residents

From early next week, colleagues will be sending letters to approximately 6,000 residents who have been identified as being likely to be eligible for Household Support Fund grants. The letter will include reminders of existing financial support that is available during the year (such as our Discretionary Housing Payments to provide financial support towards housing costs, or our Council Tax hardship fund to provide support to those who are struggling financially because of the pandemic). Additionally, information will be included to encourage residents to contact our Welfare and Money Maximisation Officer, Lucy Tompkins, who can discuss residents' circumstances and identify any support that may be suitable.

The Household Support Fund itself is a new one-off grant, which is live until 31 March 2022. This usually provides £49 (for a family) or £29 (for an individual) to cover food or household energy costs, but more funding may be available for people who can demonstrate a higher need – for instance for higher costs of filling an oil tank or buying a new cooker. To be eligible for the Household Support Fund residents will need to earn less than £17,940 or receive any of the following: Income Support; Income-based Job Seekers Allowance; Income-related Employment and Support Allowance; Pension Credit; Universal Credit; Working Tax Credit. Residents can find out more, or apply online, on Cambridgeshire County Council's website. Details of how to access the scheme are available at: <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/coronavirus/household-support-fund>

County Highways Issues

The Jan 25th committee will look at:

- Civil Parking Enforcement
- 20 mph scheme funding & principles

Peter McDonald
January 6th 2022