

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 7 March 2022 at 7.30pm

Present Simon Bugey, Caroline Ilott, Andy Brown, John O’Neill, Geoff Barnes, Peter Howell, Peter Tye, District Cllr. Deborah Roberts and County Cllr. Peter McDonald. There were no members of the public present.

- 1. Apologies for Absence** – Jane Trevanion
- 2. Laurentian Reporting** – Peter Howell
- 3. Notice of Parish Council elections on 5 May 2022 and drop-in meeting on 9 March 2022 for prospective parish councillors (nomination papers to the SCDC returning officer by 4pm on 5 April 2022)**
Simon Bugey reminded councillors that elections would take place on 5 May 2022 and that the Parish Clerk will be receiving nomination forms until 31 March 2022 to take to SCDC at Cambourne. There is a meeting for residents interested in becoming a parish councillor on Wednesday 9 March 6.30-8pm. Simon Bugey, Caroline Ilott and Peter Tye will attend.
- 4. Open Forum for Public Participation** – none
- 5. Members Declarations of Interest for items on the Agenda** – none
- 6. To approve and sign the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on 7 February 2022**
Simon Bugey thanked Caroline Ilott for chairing the last Parish Council meeting in his absence.
The minutes and confidential minutes were approved. Proposed Caroline Ilott, seconded John O’Neill. All agreed.

Simon Bugey signed the minutes.

- 7. Matters arising from these minutes:**
 - Cllr McDonald is waiting to hear from Sue Proctor, the new director of County Council Highways, and Roland Potter, head of County Council Transport about extending the Harston bypass feasibility study to include a bypass for Foxton.
 - Cllr. Roberts advised that she had spoken to SCDC environmental health about signs to remind residents to keep dogs under control. She advised that there is helpful advice on the RSPCA website about dogs and the law regarding control of dogs. A dog attack is a police matter. Cllr. Roberts advised that there is nothing stopping a Parish Council putting up a sign about dog safety [*clerk note: on Parish Council owned land*]. In the case where an issue has been reported, SCDC recommended sending a letter to the dog owner if known, requesting that the dog be kept on a lead. Unfortunately, in the recent reported case, the owner was not known.
 - Caroline Ilott had contacted David Alpin at This Land to seek assurance that the buildings on the old Trinity School site will be maintained and also alerted the conservation officer at SCDC. This was prior to the roof lead theft.
 - Peter Howell had noted in the Laurentian that the Precept was being kept the same for the second year running.

- Simon Buggey advised that the broadband had been installed in the Parish Council office and the next step would be to liaise with the village hall about setting up the village hall network. A small working group will be set up to manage this.
- Caroline Ilott reminded the Parish Council that the Foxton Gardens Association (FGA) had invited the Parish Council to apply for funding in relation to tree planting for the Queen's jubilee and that this fund could be used for the recreation ground project planting.
- Geoff Barnes had tried to obtain police contact details for the Parish Council and is awaiting a response.
- The Clerk had completed all actions, including sending the press statement to the CambridgeshireLive journalist, writing to contractors for orders of work, contacting David Walston re defibrillator training and circulating booking details, confirming access permission for tennis courts resurfacing work, requesting all contractors direct R&A communications through the clerk and asking contractors if they are able to continue existing contracts until 30 November 2022 and to confirm prices. The updated goal risk assessment had been circulated to the Parish Council.

Action Cllr. McDonald

- Update on extending Harston bypass feasibility study to include a bypass for Foxton
- Ask County Council Highways to check grips leading into village
- Liaise with the Melbourn Greenway cycle lane project regarding 20mph speed zones in the village.

Action Simon Buggey

- Discuss WIFI network setup with village hall and set up a small working party to manage this
- Ask FGA how to apply for Platinum Jubilee tree planting funding

Action Andy Brown

- Search for contractor to undertake Dovecote meadow preparation work and seeding

Action Clerk

- Ask GCP to organise a public meeting to update on proposed Foxton travel hub in May 2022 (avoiding 9 May when the Annual meeting will be held)
- Clarify Football Foundation grant requirements if Parish Council applies
- Email Foxton Football Club and Foxton Cricket Club to ask them to discuss and agree with each other what they would like the pitch treatments to be to meet the needs of both clubs
- Circulate guidance on Occupiers Liability Act 1984 to Foxton cricket and football clubs
- Share insurance advice and legal advice with Foxton football and cricket clubs
- Circulate recreation ground rules and terms and conditions to the sports clubs
- Apply for GMA membership
- Circulate extension agreements to contractors and Chair for signature
- Advise Foxton Cricket Club that the Parish Council has approved their event on 28 Aug 2022

- Confirm internal audit

8. District Councillor's Report

Cllr. Roberts expressed concern about the rise in county council charges to cover public services and a rise in council tax rents at a time when the cost of living and energy prices are rising.

Cllr. Roberts expressed concern about the potential effect of developments, such as in Northstowe, on the region's water supply. At a Planning Committee meeting, the internal drainage board gave a sobering explanation on why they think that the water supply will not support the amount of new development proposed and the risk of residential flooding. Cllr. Roberts referred to an article in the Cambridge Independent citing similar concerns about the possible development of 49k houses in the greater Cambridge region under the next Local Plan.

Cllr. Roberts expressed her sadness about the suffering in Ukraine and commended the collection efforts locally in Barley, Fowlmere and Foxton. She noted that not everyone would be able to help by giving online donations.

9. County Councillor's Report – see Appendix 1

Cllr. McDonald ran through the main points in his report which can be viewed in more detail under Appendix 1.

Peter Tye asked that County Council Highways check the grips on roads leading into the village as they aren't very visible to cars and cyclists.

Peter Tye asked Cllr. McDonald to liaise with the Melbourn Greenway cycle lane project regarding 20mph speed zones in the village.

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

Caroline Ilott advised that the third planning application for development at 32 Fowlmere Road had been refused by SCDC Planning.

A planning application for a new and bigger grain barn on Fowlmere Road had been received and the Parish Council had submitted its comments advising that there was no objection in principal but there were matters that needed further clarification. In particular the Parish Council had raised the issue that the barn was located within thirty metres of a grain barn that is to be converted into two residential dwellings. The matter of residential amenity must be considered. Geoff Barnes noted that this was contaminated land. Caroline Ilott confirmed that this point had been included in the Parish Council's comments on the granted application for the original grain barn conversion to 2 dwellings.

11. Infrastructure

A report had been circulated.

Caroline Ilott advised that the contractor for County Council Highways had done a very poor job on the pavement slurry work at West Hill Road, Rowlands Close and St Laurence Road. This has been reported to County Council Highways who have advised that remedial action will be taken. Cllr McDonald noted there had been similar issues in

other villages and he has asked that these contractors should not be paid until the issues are resolved and that they should not be used again. This problem contrasted with the good full repair of the pavement along Fowlmere Road.

Cllr. McDonald advised that the LHI bids will go to the April Highway and Infrastructure Committee meeting.

a. Travel hub update and GCP request to attend Parish Council meeting for update - AB

Andy Brown advised that he attended an online meeting with the GCP on a proposed rural bus network, prior to this Parish Council meeting. As there was very little notice of this meeting, only Andy and the Barrington Clerk were in attendance along with three representatives from the GCP. The proposed bus route would not have a stop at the travel hub and it was proposed to have two circular routes in the morning and evening. The timings of the buses may align with some of the trains going into Cambridge but Andy questioned the usefulness of this service, considering the bus journey time and access to the travel hub.

The GCP is planning to submit a planning application at the end of May 2022, after the local elections. The GCP has asked if it can attend a Parish Council meeting to provide an update, however the timescale of the application leaves little time for this outside the pre-election period.

The Parish Council agreed to suggest the GCP organise a public meeting at Foxton Village Hall in May, after the elections on 5 May 2022 and avoiding the Parish Council Annual meeting on 9 May 2022.

Cllr. McDonald noted that the planning application for the proposed Hauxton travel hub had been refused twice.

Simon Buggy advised that he had attended a meeting with East West Rail on 21 February 2022. The meeting was set up to decide the timing, format and frequency of ongoing meetings with local representatives to keep them updated on any progress.

12. S106 update

a. Consider the next steps for S106 recreation ground plans

A report had been circulated.

Caroline Ilott explained that the S106 Working Group had put a huge amount of work into progressing the S106 funding plans over the last two years and a lot had been achieved. There is now an outline plan for the recreation ground but there is still a great deal of work to do and major decisions that still need to be made. As this Parish Council only had a short time left, it needed to consider how this project can be taken forward.

Caroline suggested that the Parish Council prepared a plan of next steps so that the recreation ground project can be taken forward by the new Parish Council as seamlessly as possible. The next steps will need to include a fully agreed and costed layout and design, grant applications and a bridging loan application as grant funds are paid in arrears. Caroline also recommended employing Alastair Russell as a project manager and quantity surveyor and who was very experienced and had

provided a very reasonable rate. A final cost will need to be brought to the Parish Council for approval.

The S106 working group had looked at savings that could be made in the design. It was proposed to look at alternative materials to wood such as recycled plastic to provide a cost comparison.

Caroline Ilott noted that current Parish Council members could remain on the S106 Working Group to help with continuity.

Geoff Barnes asked if any of the S106 funds were close to their spending deadlines. Caroline Ilott advised that all funds nearing their spending deadline had been spent. Caroline Ilott noted that the recreation ground project was a project for the whole community and all ages.

Peter Tye recommended researching comparative prices for the recreation ground project that could be passed on to the new Parish Council.

John O'Neill recommended setting out all project costs with a short justification for all major cost commitments. This would help determine if there is any cost contingency in the designs.

Caroline Ilott thanked all the councillors for their hard work in progressing this project. There will be a S106 Working Group meeting in late March.

Cllr. Peter McDonald left the meeting

13. R&A

a. Parish Council meeting with sports clubs on 24 February 2022 update - SB

Simon Bugey advised that a productive meeting had been held with the sports clubs on 24 February 2022 with Simon Bugey, Peter Tye and Caroline Ilott attending for the Parish Council and representatives of Foxton Football Club, Foxton Cricket Club, Dynamo Foxton and the Bowls Club attending. Representatives of the Tennis Club were unable to attend. Minutes will be circulated to all.

It was proposed at the meeting to return to six monthly meetings with the Parish Council and sports clubs to improve communications.

Mick Pratt from the Foxton Football Club had explained that there was a general feeling that the Parish Council wanted to reduce sport on the recreation ground. Simon Bugey had explained that he was not aware of any Parish Council agenda to reduce sport on the recreation ground and the Parish Council understood the sports clubs' requirements to fulfil their fixtures on their home ground. Simon added that he hoped that better dialogue and engagement with the sports clubs going forward will provide reassurance of this.

There had been a discussion regarding recreation ground treatments and Mick Pratt had explained that although the recreation ground was maintained to a higher standard than normally required, this was of benefit to the whole village and attracted people to use it. Mick explained that in their view, recreation grounds in other local villages were in a poor condition in comparison.

There was a discussion regarding the location of the informal goal which will need to be moved off the cricket pitch before the cricket season starts. The sports clubs agreed to the proposal of returning the goal to its original location on the outer field as a temporary measure with the proviso that if it is moved again, it will be stored in the compound.

Dynamo Foxton requested permission to erect temporary nets during football games to prevent children from running into the road. This will be brought to the RGT meeting for approval. Dynamo Foxton will be paying for the nets and they will be taken down after play.

Foxton Bowls Club explained the financial difficulties the Bowls Club faced and acknowledged that RGT, as a charity, was unable to provide funding to a third party. The club enquired about the availability of Parish Council funds. Simon Bugey advised that there were no funds for the Bowls Club in the 2022-2023 budget.

The sports clubs were happy for the new Hardman Road gate to stay where it is and to be used as an emergency access only.

Matt Gray of Foxton Cricket Club explained his disappointment that the Parish Council had not first discussed with the club the risks it had identified with its equipment.

b. Football Foundation Grant Application – should this be revisited following information provided at the sports clubs meeting?

Simon Bugey explained that this request from the Football Club had previously been considered (twice) and Mick Pratt had explained at the sports clubs meeting his feeling that the Parish Council were not in full possession of the facts when making its decisions. Mick made the point that rather than granting tenure the Parish Council could state that although it could not guarantee tenure it could foresee no reason why football could not be played on the recreation ground for the period of the grant and beyond.

Andy Brown suggested that the Football Club prepare a fully prepared and revised application that would meet the needs of the Parish Council and the Football Foundation.

John O'Neill suggested that it would be sensible to have a dialogue with the Football Club about what might be acceptable to the Parish Council/ RGT in advance of any consideration at a Parish Council meeting to avoid unnecessary frustration.

Peter Howell expressed his concern that the land is part owned by RGT which cannot enter into an exclusive agreement as this is against charity law. He asked whether it is possible to get over that hurdle. Peter argued that the rewording suggested by the Football Club still implied agreement.

John O'Neill suggested that the Parish Council and RGT make it clear to the Football Club what it can and cannot sign up to and allow it the opportunity to find an acceptable way forward that meets the Football Foundation's requirements.

Peter Tye explained that following discussions at the sports club meeting and on the recreation ground, Foxtton Cricket Club and Foxtton Football Club had differing views on the treatments and seeding that should be applied on the recreation ground, other than the cricket club square. If the Football Club applied for this funding the Cricket Club would lose its say on the treatments used and there could be a degree of control lost over the pitch management. To avoid this, the Parish Council could apply for the grant directly as the Football Foundation has advised it is changing its criteria to allow this. Caroline Ilott added that this way the Parish Council could retain control of the recreation ground's management and find a compromise between the sports clubs on the treatments used.

John O'Neill proposed that Foxtton Football Club and Foxtton Cricket Club speak to each other to come up with an acceptable solution for both clubs.

It was agreed that the Clerk will clarify the requirements for a Parish Council applying for the Football Foundation grant and the feasibility of this approach. The Clerk will email Foxtton Football Club and Foxtton Cricket Club to ask them to discuss and agree with each other what they would like the pitch treatments to be to meet the needs of both clubs. It was noted that any proposal would need to come to the Parish Council for consideration.

Cllr. Roberts left the meeting.

c. Safety of cricket club cordoning off equipment – insurance advice - AW

The Clerk had circulated advice.

The Clerk explained that having spoken to the Parish Council's insurance and legal advisers the following points had been made:

- The Parish Council is insured for all liability from damage or injury on the recreation ground
- The Parish Council should have written evidence of all communications/discussions with the clubs about any risk assessment and requests
- The Parish Council and sports clubs have dual responsibility to ensure safety of users, players and spectators on the recreation ground
- Sports clubs using the recreation ground should have their own insurance (we ask for a copy of this annually)
- Intended use is an important consideration - a football goal may pose a risk but it is being used for its intended purpose and is designed for that purpose compared to scaffold poles which are not designed for use on a recreation ground
- The sports clubs should be asked for their own risk assessment of their equipment and use of the grounds during play which should detail any risk mitigation
- An inspection company like ROSPA could be asked to undertake a risk assessment of recreation ground/ sports areas

The Clerk is waiting to receive advice from radar who provide legal advice through the Parish Council's insurance regarding whether the terms and conditions are sufficient to protect the Parish Council in relation to the sports clubs use of the recreation ground. The legal adviser asked if the sports clubs ask the Parish Council for permission to use equipment on the recreation ground. This is a requirement under the terms and conditions.

Caroline Ilott noted that the Parish Council had not been asked by the Cricket Club about the All Stars Cricket already advertised on Facebook to be played on the recreation ground in May and June this year.

Simon Bugey noted that in the past there was no system in place for requesting permission or booking events.

The Clerk advised that the Parish Council and sports clubs have a joint duty of care under the Occupiers Liability Act 1984 to provide a safe area for the public, players and spectators to use. It was agreed that this legislation along with NALC guidance should be shared with the sports clubs.

The Clerk will share the insurance advice and legal advice with the football and cricket clubs and request the necessary risk assessments.

d. Updated recreation ground rules and sports clubs terms and conditions

The rules and terms and conditions had been updated by Sheryl Williamson and circulated and councillors had provided further comments and changes.

It was agreed to change the latest draft under para 6.3 to state that the compound gate must be closed and secured at all times when unattended.

The recreation ground rules and sports clubs' terms and conditions were agreed and will be circulated to the sports clubs. Proposed Simon Bugey, seconded Caroline Ilott. All agreed.

e. Dovecote wildflowers ground preparation £300 – update - AB

Andy Brown advised that the new seed for the Dovecote meadow has been purchased but there was little time left to sow the seed this year and contractors were very busy. The meadow requires a low cut and scarifying of specific areas for seeding. Andy will ask Dan from DP Garden Works if he is available otherwise the seeding may have to wait until next year.

f. Grounds Management Association (GMA) membership £158 per year – PT

Peter Tye advised that the GMA provides independent and expert advice on grounds maintenance. This advice would support a new Parish Council who may not have the time or expertise to manage the recreation ground's maintenance. Peter explained that the GMA could do a site visit in June and meet with Parish Councillors to assess the recreation ground and advise on its maintenance requirements. The GMA advice would provide a neutral reference point when considering contractor's quotes. The Clerk confirmed that there was no budget under 'memberships' but the membership could be paid for under the Open Spaces budget. The GMA will be able to provide advice on how best to maintain the recreation ground and sports pitches, depending on the requirements of the Parish Council. It should be able to provide options for different scenarios.

Proposed Peter Tye, seconded Simon Bugey. All agreed.

g. Fertiliser, weed control and seeding annual plan 2022-2023 – PT

A draft plan had been circulated.

Peter Tye acknowledged that this plan may be affected by revisiting the Football Club application for the Football Foundation grant.

Peter explained that R&A had previously proposed a fertiliser programme that could be revisited each year. The plan circulated included one application of fertiliser for the whole recreation ground in the Spring and weed control as required. Peter further explained that a good quality fertiliser protects the grass and its roots and would help preserve the condition of the recreation ground, particularly taking into account there is no watering system for the recreation ground and drier weather conditions.

Caroline Ilott added that quotes would need to be brought to a Parish Council meeting for consideration along with the available budget.

It was considered that there was no Parish Council budget for grass seeding and as such this could be brought to RGT for consideration.

h. Extension of grass cutting and village warden contracts with any new terms/ costs (D.P Garden Works, SW Gardens, Foxton Cricket Club and Peter Evans) to 30 November 2022 by letter agreement – CI

Draft letter agreements had been circulated.

All grass cutting contractors and the village warden had agreed to extend their contracts until 30 November 2022.

It was agreed to extend the following contracts with the following revised prices to 30 November 2022:

Foxton Cricket Club £350 per month (with £100 contribution to the Football Club) to cover increased fuel and maintenance cost

SW Gardens £135 per cut

DP Garden Works £7850 annual cost (the previous annual cost was £7505 and in the past two years the actual annual cost charged was approximately £2500 less due to less cuts

Peter Evans – no price increase

Proposed Caroline Ilott, seconded Peter Tye. All agreed.

Andy Brown asked that Peter Howell's detailed evaluation of grass cutting costs be taken into consideration when re tendering the contracts as the evaluation showed Foxton Parish Council was paying more than other local parishes. Simon Buggey added that by extending the contracts, the new Parish Council would have time to review the contracts before tendering. Peter Tye added that it would be necessary to get quotes to compare to Peter Howell's evaluation.

i. Foxton Cricket Club's request for event on the recreation ground: Rock on the Rec Sunday 28 August 2022 - AW

Proposed Simon Buggey, seconded Peter Tye. All agreed.

Caroline Ilott advised that the Cricket Club will need event insurance and a temporary licence for music/ food and alcohol.

14. Finance

a. Bank signatories: Remove Sheryl Williamson and add bank signator(y/ies) to all bank accounts. Bank mandate forms to be signed by 2 signatories - AW

The Clerk advised that now Sheryl Williamson had left the Parish Council, some accounts were short on bank signatories. Two signatories are required for approving changes to the bank mandate and payments (or the RFO and one council signatory for online payments).

The signatories are currently as follows:

- Unity Trust Bank current and savings account (the current account will be used as the main account once the switch has completed from Barclays):
Simon, Caroline (remove Sheryl)
- Lloyds Bank (Treasurers A/c and 2 savings accounts):
Simon, Caroline (remove Sheryl)
- Barclays savings account (current account due to be closed once switch has completed):
Simon, Andy, Jane, Caroline (remove Sheryl)

It was agreed to remove Sheryl Williamson as a signatory and wait until after the elections to add any new bank signatories.

b. Reappointment of internal auditor LGS Services

Having considered the service provided by LGS Services and CAPALC it was agreed to continue using LGS services as it had provided a good service in previous years. Documents can be provided online and the costs of CAPALC and LGS are similar with LGS providing a fixed cost of £125+VAT whereas CAPALC offering an hourly rate of £30 with an average work time of 4 to 5 hrs.
Proposed Caroline Illott, seconded John O'Neill. All agreed

c. Approval of payments

The bank reconciliation and bank statements were reviewed and approved by Andy Brown.

The following payments were approved. Proposed Simon Buggey, seconded Andy Brown. All agreed.

Payments

Payments made (prior agreed)

1. Salary (SO) - LGA 1972 s112	£827.04
2. Pension - LGA 1972 s112, s111	£39.24
3. Google Ireland Gmail - LGA 1972 s111, s142	£46.00
4. Opus Metered street lights - Parish Councils Act 1957, s3; Highways Act 1980 s301	£27.31 inc VAT
5. Opus Unmetered street lights - Parish Councils Act 1957, s3; Highways Act 1980 s301	£119.91 inc VAT
6. Amazon 2 lined paper pads and envelopes LGA 1972 s111	£22.73 inc VAT
7. Balance transfer to Unity Trust to cover February payments	£4000

Payments to be authorised

1. Parish Clerk Salary	£485.24
inc phone & broadband £43.29 (inc. £8.80 call charge for Unity Trust 03454 number)/ home allowance £22 LGA 1972 s112	

2.	HMRC National insurance & income tax - LGA 1972 s112/ LGA 1972 s111	£281.17
3.	Parish Clerk Expenses – mileage - LGA 1972 s111	£5.76
4.	Foxtton Parish Council Top up Treasurers Account to £500 - LGA 1972 s111	£22.73
5.	Foxtton Cricket Club Feb grass cutting - Open Spaces Act 1906 s9-10	£300
6.	Peter Evans – village warden duties (8hrs) - Open Spaces Act 1906 s9-10	£140.00
7.	Peter Evans – boundary fence repair – S106, approved PC Feb 2022	£105.00
8.	Shelford Tree Service tree reduction/ removal inc. work requested by Tennis Club – £500+VAT <i>approved clerk/chair</i> Open Spaces Act 1906 s9-10	£600.00 inc VAT
9.	Foxtton Village Hall meeting room hire - LGA 1972 s111 Meeting room x 1 and pavilion x 2	£46.20
10.	S W Gardens clearance behind play area – S106, approved PC Feb 2022	£370.00

*Local Government Act


15. New website and WIFI update

The Clerk confirmed that the new website was now live. Simon Buggey had provided an update on the WIFI under matters arising.

16. Items for next agenda

17. Date and time of next Parish Council Meeting: Monday 4 April 2022 at 7.30pm

The meeting closed at 9.35pm.



Annabel Wright
Foxtton Parish Clerk
9 March 2022

Appendix 1

Report for Parish Councils – March 2022**South Cambs District Council****Ukraine**

The Council has pledged to support people fleeing the Ukraine and is calling for a national resettlement programme to be set up by the Government so that this can happen. Councillors have said that the Council will play their part and work to identify local homes for refugees leaving the warzone if needed. You can read the Council's position in full here: [pledge to support people fleeing Ukraine](#).

We hear and empathise with the anxiety and concern of residents who want to do something to help those affected and we want to help by signposting people who wish to offer support in response to the humanitarian crisis.

Donations

The Disasters Emergency Committee brings together 15 leading UK aid charities to raise funds quickly and efficiently at times of crisis overseas. You can [learn more about their Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal](#).

Additionally, local organisation [Cambridge Convoy Refugee Action](#) – which ordinarily works to take regular convoys of donated items to refugees in Calais – has advised that it is NOT currently collecting items for Ukraine. They suggest instead that donations of money is a much more effective way of helping the aid organisations that are working in the region. Furthermore, the Local Government Association (LGA) has provided Councils with [this link to BBC News online](#) where it suggests people should direct their support to organisations including:

- [The British Red Cross](#), which has launched an appeal to help the Ukrainian Red Cross to provide food, medicine, clothing and shelter, as well as first aid training in bomb shelters, and drinking water to villages in eastern Ukraine
- [The UNHCR refugee agency](#), which is funding emergency shelters, repairs for homes damaged by shelling, emergency cash assistance, psychological support and warm clothing
- [UNICEF](#), the UN's children's charity, which is helping to ensure families have clean water and food and that child health and protection services continue
- [Save the Children](#), which is providing cash assistance, food and other support to refugees crossing into Romanian and Lithuania, as well as in Ukraine itself.

Additionally, the Secretary of State for Defence, Ben Wallace, has suggested donating money through the Ukrainian Embassy's [With Ukraine](#) fund. The money will be spent on providing humanitarian assistance to the civilian population and to purchase medical and military supplies for Ukraine's army.

Business grants update: Hospitality and Leisure Grant and Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG) top-up. This is up and running and the status as of March 1st was:

OHLG

Applications received: 328
 Applications processed: 237
 Processed value: £819.4k
 Rejected/duplicate: 83
 Pending/in progress: 8

ARG – please see attached analysis

Applications received: 133

Applications processed:82

Process value: £256.8k

Rejected: 34

Pending/in progress: 17

Cambridgeshire County Report**Secondary School Places**

The proportion of pupils offered a place at one of their preferred Cambridgeshire secondary schools has risen.

In total, 90% of pupils have received a place at their first choice school for 2022/23, similar to the 90.9% figure from this time last year. Moreover, 97.2% of pupils were allocated a spot at either their first, second or third preference school, a rise from 97% last year.

Overall, 6,983 offers were made, up from 6,819. There were more online applications and fewer paper applications in 2022. Students heard on 1 March 2022 at which secondary school they have been offered a place in September 2022.

Easter Programme for Children

Enriching experiences and a nutritious lunch are being made available in the Easter holidays for the children of families receiving benefits-related free school meals.

The Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme offers fun with friends and free food for primary and secondary school children in both Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

The sessions will include a healthy meal, a variety of exciting activities or sports and the opportunity to socialise with other children. Any child receiving benefits-related free school meals is eligible for the programme. Funded by the Department for Education (DfE), the HAF scheme enables local authorities to coordinate free holiday childcare and enriching experiences locally. The programme will be delivered by approved providers, co-ordinated by Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council.

Each eligible child will be able to access up to 16 hours of free holiday childcare or enriching experiences through the school Easter holiday period. Further information can be found at www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/haf and Early Years & Childcare | Peterborough Information Network

As part of the HAF programme, eligible children will be able to access:

- Fun and enriching play opportunities or new experiences that provide children with new skills and knowledge.
- At least one meal a day.
- Guidance on healthy eating and getting children involved in food preparation and cooking.
- Support for parents, carers or other family members with guidance on how to source, prepare and cook nutritious and low-cost food.

Information and signposting to other services and support which might be helpful.

Both councils are working with local schools, voluntary and community organisations, and childcare providers to deliver the HAF programme.

Highways Capital Spending

Click on this link to view [The 2 year capital plan including footways and paths is here](#)

Click on this link to view [The priority schemes are listed here](#)

Flooding

A new plan to reduce the risk of flooding in Cambridgeshire over the next five years has been approved by Members of the county council's Environment & Green Investment Committee agreed the Cambridgeshire Flood Risk Management Strategy and supporting action plan at its meeting on Thursday. The council is responsible for developing, maintaining and applying a local flood risk management strategy (LFRMS) for the county.

The key objectives of the strategy are: understanding flood risk in Cambridgeshire, managing the likelihood of flooding, helping residents to manage their own risk, ensuring appropriate development in Cambridgeshire and improving flood prediction, warning and post flood recovery.

The newly agreed strategy and action plan will run until 2027 and was agreed following a public consultation which lasted for nearly two months until late January.

The consultation received 31 responses, which led to changes in areas including: greater reference to the natural and historic environment, greater representation of local flooding issues, the impact of new development on flood risk, communication with the community and more details around timescales.

Click on the link to view the [strategy and action plan are included in the meeting's agenda](#). Residents can check their flood risk by using the online flood maps to check whether they're at risk of flooding at <https://www.gov.uk/check-flooding>.

Ethics & Behaviour at the County Council

You may be aware of 'Farmgate' whereby an independent investigation concluded that the former Cambridgeshire County Council deputy leader breached the Council's Code of Conduct in six different areas. Ex-Councillor Hickford failed to treat Officers and others acting on behalf of the Council with respect; used a bullying manner in order for the Council to pay for works that would otherwise be the responsibility of the tenant. He also used a bullying manner in order to set the terms of the lease for Manor Farm. He compromised Officers and others' impartiality in his dealings with regard to Manor Farm and his conduct towards Officers and others and his conflict of interest would have reduced the public's confidence in him being able to fulfil his role or the Council being able to discharge its functions.

He also used his position as Deputy Leader to receive concessions that the Council would not otherwise have agreed to and failed to register a disclosable pecuniary interest (the tenancy of Manor Farm) within 28 days and he failed to declare a non-statutory disclosable interest in meetings with regard to County Farms matters. Obviously one bad apple is a bad apple too many so the Council is taking a wide range of steps to ensure that appalling behaviour such as this will never be tolerated again by officers or Councillors.

Thakeham

Seems the OxCam Arc is dead for now and Thakeham seems to be quiet.

County Farms Estate

Cambridgeshire County Council has been advertising for new tenants for seven council-owned farms, part of the council's 33,000 acre rural estate. The council's estate – the largest public sector estate in the country – is divided into 226 holdings, with 160 different tenants. The seven farms up for application, 1,800 acres in total, are in South Cambridgeshire, Fenland and Littleport. Interest is high, with 67 viewings booked by mid-February. The estate brings in £5M in rent to the council each year, to support local services. It contributes to the local economy, enables the council to put its environmental commitments into practice, and ensure public access to the countryside with permissive paths and bridleways.

The council is looking for innovative, entrepreneurial applicants with new ideas for developing their own businesses on the land. These could well be arable or livestock farming, but there are also opportunities for ancillary enterprises such as livery, farm shops or engineering.

Applicants will need to demonstrate that they have the necessary skills and a viable three-year business plan and budget. They will also need to show that they understand the council's expectations for the farms estate, and in particular are keen to farm in step with nature and do their bit to help tackle climate change and increase biodiversity.

Interviews will take place this month, and tenancies will be ready to take up from October onwards. The council has published a [brochure](https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/business/business-with-the-council/rural-business-opportunities) about this opportunity, <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/business/business-with-the-council/rural-business-opportunities>

Peter McDonald