

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 4 April 2022 at 7.30pm

Present Simon Bugey, Caroline Ilott, Jane Trevanion Geoff Barnes, Peter Howell, Peter Tye and District Cllr. Deborah Roberts. There was 1 member of the public present.

1. **Apologies for Absence** – Andy Brown, John O’Neill, County Cllr. Peter McDonald
2. **Laurentian Reporting** – Peter Howell
3. **Deadline for nomination papers to the SCDC returning officer by 4pm on 5 April 2022 - SB**
Simon Bugey reminded councillors that the deadline for submitting nomination papers for the election was 4pm on 5 May 2022.

4. **Open Forum for Public Participation**

A local resident asked if there were any finalised plans for the play area and what the S106 project time frame was. Caroline Ilott advised that there were no finalised plans yet and therefore no timeframe. Further consideration of the S106 project had been delayed until the new Parish Council is appointed. Further information about the S106 play area proposal could be found in the last Parish Council meeting minutes.

The resident asked if there was any update on the proposal to plant Cherry Laurel trees along his fence line. Caroline Ilott advised this would be covered under Item 12 of the agenda.

5. **Members Declarations of Interest for items on the Agenda** – Simon Bugey declared a personal interest in Item 12 as he is a friend of the owner of Phillimore’s Garden Centre and abstained from voting.
6. **To approve and sign the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on 7 March 2022**
The Clerk noted that a member of Foxton Football Club had requested clarification of the last Parish Council meeting minutes regarding Peter Tye’s comments on the differing views of Foxton Football Club and Foxton Cricket Club regarding recreation ground treatments. Simon Bugey explained that an email had been sent to the clubs explaining that Peter Tye's comments were based on his recollection of the discussion about fertiliser requirements at the meeting with the sports clubs on 24 February 2022. Peter Tye’s understanding was that the cricket and football clubs had proposed slightly different requirements but there had been no inference of friction between the two clubs. Peter Tye added that the minutes reflected his understanding of what was said at the sports club meeting and therefore there was no need to change them. The minutes were approved. Proposed Simon Bugey, seconded Peter Tye. All agreed.

Simon Bugey signed the minutes.

7. **Matters arising from these minutes:**

- Simon Bugey advised that Ian Deas and Peter Howell were seeking quotes for a hard-wired village hall WIFI network. Peter Howell confirmed that two quotes had been received and a third was awaited.
- Simon Bugey is awaiting a response from the FGA re Jubilee tree planting

- Dovecote meadow preparation work for seeding was completed
- The Clerk had asked the GCP to provide a written update or organise a public meeting. The GCP had send a brief email outlining the outcome of the Executive board meeting and intention regarding submitting a planning application but no new information had been provided. The Clerk had sought information about the Football Foundation grant, circulated guidance on Occupiers Liability Act 1984, insurance and risk assessment to Foxtton cricket and football clubs, circulated recreation ground rules and terms and conditions to the sports clubs, applied for GMA membership, circulated extension agreements to grass cutting contractors and the village warden, advised Foxtton Cricket Club that the Parish Council had approved their event on 28 Aug 2022 and booked the internal audit.

Action Cllr. McDonald

- Update on extending Harston bypass feasibility study to include a bypass for Foxtton
- 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 Buggiey

- FGA response on Platinum Jubilee tree planting awaited

Action Caroline Ilott/ Peter Tye

- Set up meeting with Phillimore's Garden Centre to establish selection of trees for tree planting behind the play area

Action Peter Tye

- Speak to contractor about not mowing the mound near the basketball court

Action Clerk

- Email James Hobro to ask for clarification about his request for support
- Chase street light inspection report
- Apply for Football Foundation Grant and set up pitch inspection with Football Club
- Book ROSPA risk assessment
- Circulate zero carbon grant information to Village Hall Trust

8. District Councillor's Report

Cllr. Roberts expressed concern about the lack of senior planning officers now at SCDC after the head officer had left and another officer was now on sick leave at a time when there appeared to be an influx of speculative planning applications being submitted. Three applications had been submitted for Fowlmere including a development proposal of 125 houses outside the village envelope. Cllr. Roberts feared that inexperienced officers could be overwhelmed without the guidance of senior officers. There was also a risk of appeals for non-determination if applications were not considered in the required timeframe. Cllr. Roberts was not aware of any pre planning application advice having been sought for Foxtton recently.

Cllr. Roberts had shared an email with the Parish Council, from the owners of the old Burlington Press site, who had requested a meeting with Cllr. Roberts regarding their planning proposals for the site. Cllr. Roberts advised that no meeting could be held in the pre-election period and any meeting would need to be a public meeting, with the Parish Council in attendance. The owner had requested pre-planning application advice from SCDC. Cllr. Roberts would seek clarification on the scope of the owner's plans; how much land the owner wished to develop; whether this included just the factory buildings or a wider area; whether there were any plans for housing development; and the impact on traffic and noise.

Caroline Ilott suggested the owner could be invited to the June Parish Council meeting to share their plans for the site with the Parish Council and members of the public.

Cllr. Roberts thanked the Parish Council for its kindness and support over the last four years and for all that it had done for the village.

Geoff Barnes also thanked Cllr. Roberts for her hard work and support over the years

9. County Councillor's Report – see Appendix 1

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

Geoff Barnes noted that no further information had been provided from the police about the investigation into the village shop break in.

11. Infrastructure

a. Travel hub update/handover

Simon Buggy advised that Andy Brown was writing a handover report.

Caroline Ilott advised that the GCP intended to submit a planning application in June 2022.

An email from James Hobro of Fowlmere Parish Council had been circulated to the Parish Council requesting support from Foxton Parish Council to support his campaign website and a change.org petition. It was agreed to clarify with James in what capacity he was approaching the Parish Council and whether this campaign is supported by Fowlmere Parish Council.

Caroline Ilott added that there was not much Foxton Parish Council could do until a planning application had been submitted. Once the application had been submitted, the Parish Council could decide whether to make any representation and seek support from other villages.

b. Update on street light inspection - AW

The Clerk advised that Balfour Beatty had carried out its 3-yearly inspection of the village street lights and would also inspect the training lights on the recreation ground when access can be arranged. An inspection report is awaited.

12. S106 update – CI

A report had been circulated.

Caroline Ilott explained that a step back review of the S106 play area project had been undertaken at the last S106 working group meeting and the working group was of the view that the Parish Council could not make any major decisions about the S106 project until the new Parish Council took over in May.

One piece of work that had been done was to compare the design brief natural wood equipment with similar wood and recycled plastic products from other companies. Two companies were approached and sent a short list of the recommended Jupiter Play equipment with prices removed. The responses received showed that wood and plastic equipment were almost the same cost, with wood being slightly cheaper. There was some difference in the length of product guarantee provided. This exercise was done in order to examine comparisons and confirmed that the original design brief, for natural play equipment, was still the correct route to follow.

The next step is to draw up a schedule of exactly what play equipment/hard/soft landscaping/path/seating/maintenance etc is required for the final overall design to be costed and taken to the Parish Council for approval.

It is proposed that the gym equipment and table tennis table will be funded by RGT as these will be positioned near the allotments and picnic tables on RGT land. The views of residents, especially teenagers should be sought.

It is proposed that the large climbing frame for teenagers now not be included in the proposal as it was very expensive and teenagers would likely prefer their own area away from the children's play area. It was proposed that the basketball hoop is moved to the other side of the basketball court so that the ball will be directed away from residential properties and that sound deadening surfacing be used.

Once a final schedule is achieved and costs established, the Parish Council could take a view on grants along with deciding if the Parish Council should underwrite any bridging loan to account for the grant funding coming at the end of the project. Applying for grants would now push the project back by possibly six months.

Caroline Ilott suggested that leaflets be distributed at the Platinum Jubilee picnic on 5 June 2022 to raise public awareness and she expressed hope that some of the outgoing Parish Councillors would remain on the S106 working group.

Caroline Ilott advised that a meeting had been held with Peter Tye, Caroline Ilott and residents bordering the recreation ground on 5 March 2022. Mixed views were expressed but all were unanimous that they wanted as much of a visual barrier to their upstairs windows, when viewed from the newly cleared area, as possible. The residents had been advised that the Parish Council had acted on its duty of care by clearing behind the play area in order to remove dead trees which could pose a risk to nearby residents' properties. The area was very overgrown and needed to be cleared so that contractors could access the trees safely. It is proposed that the Parish Council consider planting in this area to provide noise dampening and privacy to residents.

Having sought advice, the larger Cherry Laurel trees would not be suitable planted near the fence line as the ground is too dry to sustain them, they would take a long time to grow and could cause tree root incursion to any nearby building foundations.

It was proposed to make the cleared area behind the playground into a managed woodland with managed wild growth, the planting of about ten trees and under planting with cowslips, snowdrops and other protected species. Some Cherry Laurels could be placed at least six feet away from any fence line to provide a good sound and visual barrier. Larger trees would only be viable if they were watered in the first year and residents that attended the meeting offered to assist with watering. In order to mitigate people looking up into first floor windows, it would be better to let the natural brash and wild growth block the access along the St Laurence fence line. The play trails would be small and at the Illingworth end of the playground.

It was considered that the SCDC Community Chest fund could be used for this purpose but would not be granted in time for planting by the end of April.

Three quotes were considered for tree planting (Contractor A £1901.76; Contractor B £670 and Contractor C £1726). The Parish Council agreed to quote B from Phillimore's Garden Centre, a local nursery, increasing the budget approved to up to £1000 using S106 funds. The quote was for ten to fifteen 4–5-year-old pot grown trees, the selection of which needed to be confirmed. Proposed Caroline Ilott, seconded Peter Howell. All voted in agreement, except for Simon Bugey who declared an interest and abstained from voting.

Caroline Ilott advised that as the informal football goal had been moved again it had been removed to the bank by the allotment and chained to the fence. It would be stored in the compound when the cricket season starts. Caroline asked if the goal should be offered to the school but it was agreed to keep the goal for the time being until there was an agreed solution to replace it. A ¾ sized goal could be a suitable replacement to be considered in the future.

13. R&A

a. Football Foundation Grant Application – update and consider next steps – CI/PT

A report had been circulated. Peter Tye advised that Foxton Football Club would like to re-visit the grant scheme offered by the Football Foundation which runs over a 6-year period. It was previously agreed that the Parish Council and RGT could not grant tenure to the club for using the adult pitch on the recreation ground as it conflicted with the rules from both the Charity Commission and the Fields in Trust scheme, which state that tenure of any length of time cannot be granted to any one organisation on Foxton Recreation Ground. The grant could be a substantial fund which would cover ground maintenance including verti draining, seeding and fertiliser for the pitch and would therefore reduce the amount of funds needed for this work for the Parish Council, RGT and the football club. The Football Foundation had advised that the Parish Council could be the lead applicant for this grant. The grant was dependent on a 'Pitch Power' assessment and even though the time for submitting this had passed, the Football Foundation had agreed to extend the application time frame (the previous pitch assessment had now expired).

It was proposed that Foxton Parish council apply to the Football Foundation as the lead applicant, with the Football Club co-signing and employ a ground assessor to do an independent assessment which would cost approximately £100. Andy Cambridge could attend the assessment. Any maintenance plan should be shared with both Foxton Football Club and Foxton Cricket Club with the GMA providing advice as needed. The Parish Council should have the final decision on any remedial work proposed.

The Parish Council agreed to apply as lead applicant for the Football Foundation grant with Foxton Football Club as co-signer, subject to Foxton Football Club agreeing to this proposal. If Foxton Football Club does not agree to proceed in this way, the Parish Council would revert back to an annual fertiliser plan. Proposed Caroline Ilott, seconded Peter Tye. All agreed.

The Parish Council agreed to pay £100 for a pitch inspection using an inspector recommended by the Cambridge Football Association. Proposed Caroline Ilott, seconded Peter Tye. All agreed.

b. Whole recreation ground risk assessment £395+VAT or £465 + VAT including play area and skatepark - CI

Caroline Ilott explained that a quote had been sought from RoSPA for a whole recreation ground risk assessment, further to previous and current concerns with cricket sight screens and cordoning off equipment. This risk assessment would be a helpful reference to the new Parish Council. In light of there being some cracks in the skatepark and the delay in installing new play equipment it was proposed to include the play area and skatepark in the inspection. These areas were last inspected in October 2021 but there was some cost saving in doing the risk assessment of the whole recreation ground and play areas at the same time.

The Parish Council agreed to a risk assessment of the whole recreation ground including the play area and skate park at a cost of £465+VAT. Proposed Caroline Ilott, seconded Peter Tye. All agreed.

c. Zero carbon grant application open, deadline 1 June 2022 -AW

Themes: reducing carbon emissions or locking up carbon & community engagement on climate change

The Clerk had circulated information about this grant. Caroline Ilott suggested Foxton Village Hall may like to consider using the grant for lighting. It was requested that councillors put forward any ideas to the Parish Council for consideration.

d. Consider adopting No Mow May campaign supported by Cambridgeshire County Council - AW

Peter Tye explained that the Parish Council had adopted this strategy last year by not mowing the mound near the basketball court allowing the daisies to grow. The contractor could be asked to not cut the verges but this would present visibility issues. It was agreed to not mow the mound by the basketball again this May. Proposed Peter Tye, seconded Simon Bugey. All agreed.

14. Finance

a. End of year budget review - AW

A finance report had been circulated.

The Clerk advised that the Barclays current account is now closed. Monthly payments would be made to and from the Unity Trust current account from now on. The Parish Council still had an S106 savings account with Barclays.

A VAT claim for £1402.08 had been submitted to HMRC and payment was awaited.

The internal audit with LGS Services was booked for 21 April 2022 and the AGAR (annual return) would be brought to the Annual Meeting for approval.

An end of year budget review had been included in the finance report.

Caroline Ilott queried the £5 rent charged to the Foxton Tennis and Bowls Clubs. Although not strictly a peppercorn rent (which is £1) the rent was charged as a nominal amount under the terms of their leases.

Caroline Ilott asked if the defibrillator contributions from the sports clubs were enough to cover inflation. The Parish Council should keep an eye on whether there is any increase to maintenance costs in the future and whether contributions need to be raised to reflect this.

The Clerk advised that general reserves at the end of the financial year 2021-2022 were £40,856.04. A council should typically hold between three to twelve months expenditure as a general reserve and this amount was just under twelve months expenditure (excluding S106). When setting the budget, Foxton Parish Council agreed to cautiously reduce the amount in general reserves and agreed to put £1000 of general reserves towards the budget for legal/ professional costs and £2000 of general reserves for a future contested election.

b. Update Scheme of delegated powers to cover inquorate Parish Council meetings

An updated policy had been circulated.

The Parish Council agreed to update the delegated powers to cover an emergency situation of not having a quorate council. Proposed Simon Buggey, seconded Caroline Ilott. All agreed.

c. Quotes

i. Fertiliser – A) one application £1120+VAT, B) two applications £2400+VAT – PT

Peter Tye advised that controlled release fertiliser would protect the grass particularly if there was dry weather. The sports clubs had applied a Spring tonic to the pitch areas for now. Two quotes for fertiliser had been circulated. It was proposed to hold off applying fertiliser, and considering quotes, until after the pitch power inspection as the soil tests would be better done before any fertiliser was applied.

A quote for weed control of the church car park and footpath to Illingworth Way £55+VAT and selective weed control on the recreation ground as needed

£380+VAT were considered. The work needs to be booked now due to contractor availability but the weeding will only be done as required. Proposed Peter Tye, seconded Caroline Illott. All agreed.

- ii. **Tree planting behind playground (S106) A) £1901.76, B) £670.00, C) £1726**
Considered under item 12 where quote B was approved.

- iii. **Clerk archiving and documentation retention training 27 April 2022 £30 – AW**

The Clerk advised that this would be useful training for managing the Parish Council's document retention and archiving. Proposed Simon Bugey, seconded Jane Trevanion. All agreed.

- iv. **CAPALC membership – increased fee £434.75 (from £426.86), DPO scheme £50 – AW**

The Clerk advised that CAPALC provided useful legal advice (with access to NALC) and financial and HR advice all of which had been sought in the previous year.

Proposed Simon Bugey, seconded Peter Tye. All agreed.

- v. **Red Shoes Accounting (payroll) – increased monthly fee from £15.50 to £16.00 +VAT – AW**

Proposed Simon Bugey, seconded Peter Tye. All agreed.

- d. **Royston Community Transport – request for donation 2022/2023- AW**

The Clerk advised that Royston Community Transport had requested a charitable donation from the Parish Council for the year 2022-23. The Parish Council had a budget of £400 for charitable donations which could be paid under S137.

In the last year, Royston Community Transport undertook 33 journeys for 14 Foxton residents, 70% of which were medical (GP, Dentist, Vaccinations) and 30% for social reasons (shopping, hairdressers and social club). The journeys covered 406 miles in total and the average journey cost was £7.37.

Councillors were asked to consider the requirements of S137 before approving any donation:

Section 137 is used when there is no other specific power available and confers powers to make grants to voluntary bodies, fund raising events, organisations providing not for profit public services, and to contribute to charities and disaster appeals. The benefit accruing must be commensurate with the expenditure incurred, which is a decision for the council. Examples of s.137 expenditure include village histories, plaques, prizes, flood relief, landscaping and flower shows

It was agreed that Royston Community Transport provided a valuable service to Foxton residents and it was proposed to donate £100 under S137. Proposed Caroline Illott, seconded Peter Howell. All agreed.

e. Approval of payments

The bank reconciliation and bank statements were reviewed and approved by Jane Trevanion.

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

Payments**Payments made (prior agreed)**

1. Salary (SO) and pension - LGA 1972 s112, s111	£866.28
2. Google Ireland Gmail - LGA 1972 s111, s142	£44.85
3. Opus Metered street lights - Parish Councils Act 1957, s3; Highways Act 1980 s301	£22.64 inc VAT
4. Opus Unmetered street lights - Parish Councils Act 1957, s3; Highways Act 1980 s301	£103.39 inc VAT

Payments to be authorised

1. Parish Clerk Salary, HMRC, expenses (inc RGT hrs £151.60)	£1,055.87
2. Peter Tye expenses – gate padlock (£20 agreed RGT) Open Spaces Act 1906 s9-10	£31.20
3. GMA membership - Open Spaces Act 1906 s9-10	£158.00
4. DP Garden Works March grass cutting - Open Spaces Act 1906 s9-10	£515.00
5. DP Garden Works Dovecote grass cutting/ scarifying Open Spaces Act 1906 s9-10, approved clerk/chair	£300.00
6. Foxton Cricket Club March grass cutting - Open Spaces Act 1906 s9-10	£300
7. Starboard Systems Scribe accounting software - LGA 1972 s111	£345.60 inc VAT
8. CAPALC affiliation fee & DPO membership - LGA 1972 s111	£484.75

Payments received after agenda published

1. Cambridge Conservation Volunteers Foxton Woods Open Spaces Act 1906 s9-10	£28.05
2. Foxton Village Hall meeting room hire x 2 - LGA 1972 s111	£28.45
3. Foxton Village Hall office hire x 2 - LGA 1972 s111	£85.38
4. Peter Evans – village warden duties - Open Spaces Act 1906 s9-10	£175.00
5. Red Shoes Accounting payroll (including RGT recharge £15.50+VAT) LGA 1972 s112/ LGA 1972 s111	£74.40

*Local Government Act

15. Format of Annual Parish Meeting (APM)

Suggestions included:

- Encouraging residents to join S106 working party and update on S106 project
- Chair report
- Update on travel hub and GCP's intention to submit planning application in June 2022
- Peter Tye to follow up with David Walston about opening up public footpaths

Any further ideas should be sent to Simon Buggey for inclusion on the APM agenda.

16. Receipt of letter from Tees Law on behalf of their client at 28 Illingworth way re (i) the extension of the play area; and (ii) the maintenance of land behind 28 Illingworth Way

The Clerk advised that the Parish Council had received a letter from Tees Law on behalf of their client, a resident at 28 Illingworth Way. The solicitor is instructed in relation to two issues:

- 1) The recreation ground and the proposed extension of the grounds
- 2) The maintenance of the land behind 28 Illingworth Way

Next steps and legal advice will be discussed in the closed section of the meeting due to its confidential and privileged nature.

17. Items for next agenda

18. Date and time of Annual Parish Meeting: Monday 25 April 2022 at 7.30pm

Date and time of Parish Council Annual Meeting: Monday 9 May 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 19-20

Proposed Simon Buggiey, seconded Peter Howell. All agreed.

19. Consider response to letter from Tees Law and quotes for legal advice

Due to the confidential and privileged nature of this item, this item was discussed in a closed meeting of the Parish Council.

20. NALC revised pay award for local government services (“Green Book”) employees for the period 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022. Consider change to salary standing order.

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

The meeting closed at 9.45pm.



Annabel Wright
 Foxton Parish Clerk
 8 April 2022

Appendix 1

Report for Parish Councils – April 2022

Cambridgeshire County Report

Biodiversity Initiative

A scheme which will help increase the county's biodiversity and support the development of new homes, businesses and infrastructure was approved by Cambridgeshire County Council's Strategy and Resources Committee (29 March).

Under the Environment Act 2021, the biodiversity of an area resulting from new developments must exceed the pre-development biodiversity value by at least 10 per cent - known as Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG). This should be provided onsite, but if that isn't possible it must be provided offsite, close to the development and within the local planning authority area. Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Biodiversity Special Planning Document, adopted in February 2022, says that they expect to require developers to deliver 20 per cent BNG.

Under the new scheme, developers who are unable to meet BNG requirements on sites in the South Cambridgeshire area will be able to secure biodiversity units from the Lower Valley Farm BNG scheme in Fulbourn.

The 358-acre farm, which is part of the council's 33,000 acre rural estate, has been identified as the ideal site for the scheme as it is located within the Cambridge Nature Network and lies adjacent to the Roman Road Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). It will also act as a stepping stone to other surrounding SSSIs, supporting habitat connectivity across the landscape from Trumpington Meadows through to Wilbraham Fen.

Cambridge-based Bidwells have helped establish the scheme and will oversee its implementation. The currently arable land will be converted to biodiverse habitats including botanically diverse grassland, native broadleaved woodland, scrub and species-rich hedgerows. The Lower Valley Farm BNG scheme will go beyond BNG requirements by providing public footpaths and opportunities for education. Developers will secure units through an Option Agreement which will commit the council to delivering the associated habitat creation and management for a 30-year period.

Highways Additional Spending

Highway Maintenance is at the early stage of transformation that given the breadth and scale of the maintenance service delivered is a big change. It could take time to produce results on the roads and outside people's front doors. Investment in two aspects of the Highways Maintenance Service would achieve faster sustainable change with immediate visible benefits to our road users, businesses and residents.

The two aspects are;

1. Getting it right for our Customers today.

On the ground action where our residents want it.

- Removing the potholes – a programme of planned patching carried out this spring and summer to properly fix pothole hotspots in and around village and town centres. This would remove the patchwork quilt of multiple repeat visits having an immediate noticeable impact

within our community centres. £400k

- Listening to our customers – Clean out our Report It tool and get back to our Report It customers. This would show we listen and feedback by providing a resource to monitor and respond to the enquiries ahead of implementation of a new up-to-date system (the current is around 15 years old). £50k
- Safe and dry – record, quantify, investigate flooding cause and implement an increased programme of highways flood hotspots to remove more of the risks of surface water on our roads. The programme would target those locations that also cause issues within the communities affecting businesses and properties. £400k
- Clear and Safe – improve the lines and road markings across the rural network. This would make driving our roads at night and in bad weather safer by providing the markings to support our road users. A targeted programme to deal with routes between towns and villages. £250k

Total investment £1,100,000.

The proposed levels of investment are scalable. The suggested investment would provide visible impactful improvement on the ground across the whole county. Scaling up would increase visibility of impact and down would reduce it.

Deliverability – We can engage with a range of supply chain partners to confidently deliver by Autumn.

Key is keeping it simple and focused. We have supply chain partners other than Milestone accessible via Local Council Roads Innovation Group framework of which we are a member.

Communications – To maximise the impact delivery would include communications through our normal channels to draw residents' attention to this extra investment.

2. Keeping it right for our customers tomorrow

Transforming at pace to achieve the sustainable change we need for the future

- Upskilling our Highway Safety Inspectors - a programme of training and education to ensure this area of service is achieving the most it can. Benefit to the public are safer roads and better value for money. Council benefit is less risk from third party claims. £30k.
- Local Highways Officer Review – Revamping the role to focus on community and customer needs ahead of the wider Highways Maintenance Restructure. £40k
- Highways workforce and succession – contribution to support the implementation and development of an accelerated apprenticeship/graduate/intern programme to bring forward a new cohort of staff into the Highways workforce during 2022 and 2023. £50k
- New Asset Management System – support to accelerate the commissioning and implementation of the system. Could reduce the implementation time from 18 months to 12 year by providing the one-off set up resources. £100k.
- Intelligent data – implement the latest survey data collection technology and use it to make better decisions on where to do what and achieve better outcomes for the public and for value for money we invest into our highways assets. £60k.
- Baselining our Highways Service – a project to baseline the carbon in the ownership and management of our highways assets to raise Climate awareness and understanding across the service and provide the base from which to start our service journey to net zero. £50k
- Capacity to change at pace – one-off resource to support the transformation of the service. Capacity to get move the change tasks forward at speed. £60k.

Total Investment = £390,000

These are all one-off investments to accelerate the transformation of the highways maintenance service. They all bring forward key parts of the overall service system that will

support better delivery into the future and help ensure the highways service is contributing to our climate change objectives.

Rail User Group AGM

The Meldreth Shepreth and Foxton Rail User Group meeting will take place on April 20, 7:30-8:30PM, via Teams – please contact railusergroup@gmail.com for the joining link. The meeting will kick off with a brief AGM and then move to all the business that the Rail User Group is actively pursuing, first and foremost encouraging take up public transport to help boost ridership figures – which is needed in order to bring the full half-hourly service back into play.

Thakeham

New donation of £75k made to the Tory Party autumn 2021 taking total to £716k.