

Draft Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 6 June 2022 at 7.30pm

Present Caroline Ilott, Chris Herriot, Ian Francis, Geoff Barnes, Peter Tye, County Cllr. Peter McDonald and District Cllr. James Hobro. There were 13 members of the public present. Ben Copithorne and Colin Brown from Mission Street attended the start of the meeting for item 2.

- 1. Apologies for Absence** – none
- 2. Presentation from Mission Street re development of Burlington Press Site**
See Appendix 1 slides for overview of plans.

Mission Street now own the Burlington Press Site and plan to refurbish and redevelop the site to create a new research and innovation hub and publicly accessible cafe.

Colin Brown from Mission Street explained that Mission Street was a life science research and development investment and development company providing office and laboratory space for the knowledge economy. The company works with an investment company, to provide long term investments to yield income in the future. Before submitting a planning application, they hope in the summer, Mission Street is inviting the local community to get involved through a public consultation on Thurs 16 June from 3-8pm and Sat 18 June 11am-4pm at the Burlington Press. Their home design team and a highways consultant will be attending. Colin also asked residents to contact Mission Street directly to ask any questions.

Colin noted the following:

- The intention was to improve the setting of the war memorial
- The first stage will include refurbishment of the press building (insulation/ upgrade internal fabric/ little intervention to press site/ improvement to external landscaping)
- Mission street looked at buildings in the village, including the Dovecote, to ensure the development will sympathise with the architecture in the village
- Buildings will have brick on the bottom and wood above and meet high sustainable standards (green roofed/ improved ecology on site/ bolstered tree line between the site and Foxton Hall)
- The plans include:
 - a cycle hub, showers and cafe
 - 30 parking spaces (the aim is to encourage sustainable travel)
 - A porous space, no barbed wire fence, a cafe and external spaces around the building for public use (the intention is to have science on show)
 - Improved pedestrian and cycle links to the train station
- The steel gate would be removed and there would be night time vehicle security
- Pupils from Foxton School will be coming to the site on 16 and 23 June to view the site and design some external landscape furniture
- Mission Street hope that the refurbishment work will start in the late Autumn and the construction, planning permitting, will start early next year. Construction will likely take 12-15 months.

A resident asked whether there would be any noxious waste or fumes from the site. Colin advised that this was inconceivable as their partners would not want this type of business on site and these types of businesses would need a more secure environment. Safety standards and law provides protection. Any waste would be dealt with according to safety standards and monitored. Colin gave examples of the types of businesses that could be expected on site such as drug discovery or cell and gene therapy business.

The same resident asked whether waste would be discharged into the existing drains and expressed concern that the current drains may not be able to take any extra volume, noting the ongoing issues with drainage in Foxton. Colin advised that any waste discharged into the drains would be cleaned and meet safety standards. Mission Street will seek advice from their surveyor and the water supply company. He thought that any issues would be flagged by the water supply company. Colin will provide feedback on this.

A resident asked whether Mission Street had taken into consideration 'building beautiful' and biodiversity. Colin advised that 'building beautiful' had been taken into consideration and a landscape architect was managing the requirements for ecology and net gain biodiversity which would be a 10% minimum.

A resident asked whether there were enough parking spaces for the number of employees on site and expressed concern that employees would park on local streets. Colin advised that Mission Street had attempted to strike a balance in providing enough spaces to provide parking but not encourage too much traffic to the site.

Geoff Barnes asked if construction vehicles could be stopped from parking on the road. Colin advised that there would be a traffic management plan to ensure they didn't.

Caroline Ilott thanked Mission Street for coming to the meeting and answering questions.

Ben Copithorne and Colin Brown from Mission Street and 4 members of the public left the meeting.

3. Open Forum for Public Participation and notice of Parish Council vacancies

A local resident raised concern about the flooding outside the pub and shop after heavy rain. Caroline Ilott advised that she was chasing County Council Highways about this and had been informed that they will check the storm drains using cameras. Cllr. McDonald added that he had been advised that the drains needed to be properly cleaned. The resident advised that this had been done before but the issues remained and suggested that there may be a capacity issue with the drains.

Caroline Ilott noted that the Parish Council still had councillor vacancies.

4. Members Declarations of Interest for items on the Agenda – none

5. To approve and sign the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on 9 May 2022

Proposed Chris Herriot, seconded Peter Tye. All agreed. Caroline Ilott signed the minutes.

6. Matters arising from these minutes:

- Cllr. McDonald advised that the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority were waiting for Cambs County Council Planning Committee to make a decision to be made on the Foxton Travel Hub before providing any response on extending the Harston bypass feasibility study to include a bypass for Foxton. The County Council Planning Committee will be considering the Foxton Travel Hub application on 20th July 2022. There is an ongoing consultation on cycle lanes and there will be a GCP update on the Melbourn Greenway on 30 June 2022.
- Cllr. Hobro had published information on how SCDC can support Ukrainian refugee families and was monitoring the progress of the Melbourn Greenway cycle path.
- Parish Council information updates had been published and flyers for progressing the playground project had been ordered and partially distributed.
- The Clerk had completed all actions

Action Cllr. Hobro

- Look into the option of a lighting column on the junction of the A10 at Foxton Bottom

Action all

- Consider options for improving communication between the Parish Council and Foxton residents and filling Parish Council vacancies for July Parish Council meeting.
- Review Parish Council policies

Action Caroline Ilott

- Set up planning meeting to discuss travel hub next steps

Action Cissy Sleigh

- Provide report on preschool needs for a 5 day ‘wrap around’ provision

Action Clerk

- Share Burlington Press consultation poster
- Accept invitation from Harston Parish Council to join South Cambs Rural Parishes Group
- Submit planning comments
- Email VHT to confirm approval of S106 application

7. County Councillor’s Report and travel update – see written report Appendix 1

Cllr McDonald noted an NHS transformation was taking place on 1 July 2022 where GPs and County Council social services would be working more closely together – see Appendix 1 for a link to a video explanation.

Cllr. McDonald advised that the next steps for the proposed Foxton travel hub will be considered at a County Council Planning Committee meeting on 20 July 2022 which he will attend. The supporting papers are likely to be published 14 days prior to this on 6 July and Cllr. McDonald will share these with Foxton Parish Council. Caroline Ilott will set up a public planning meeting with Cllr. McDonald to discuss whether Foxton would

like the plans refused or deferred. And will invite Fowlmere and Barrington Parish Councils to attend this meeting. This will be publicised to the village as soon as a date and venue can be booked. Cllr. McDonald noted that the proposed Harston travel hub had been deferred 2-3 times.

Geoff Barnes raised concern that over the last four years, the old school site had yet to be tidied up by This Land. Cllr. McDonald had raised this today with This Land.

Peter Tye raised concern that a Foxton bypass could be delayed due to the possible development of the travel hub and asked that they be considered as separate issues. A bypass would provide a better quality of life to residents and reduce waiting time at the level crossing, particularly for emergency vehicles. Cllr. McDonald added that the idea of extending the Harston bypass to Foxton had not been dismissed. Peter Tye asked that the bypass idea was followed up irrespective of any planning decision on the Foxton Travel Hub. This would need to be pursued with the Cambs & Peterborough Combined Authority (the Mayor's office).

Peter Tye asked if any progress had been made on the implementation of 20mph limits in villages. Cllr. McDonald explained that a 3-year budget had been agreed for this proposal and Foxton Parish Council would need to apply for it.

Peter Tye asked if any progress had been made on HGV policy. Cllr. McDonald advised that the County Council is considering HGV zones where 7.5 tonne weight limits could be applied.

Peter Tye asked if smaller buses could be considered for village travel. Cllr. McDonald advised that the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority was responsible for buses and they were looking into subsidising rural buses, including smaller buses.

8. District Councillor's Report – see written report Appendix 2

Cllr. Hobro explained that he was recently elected as the South Cambridgeshire District Councillor for Foxton Ward.

9. Preschool project update

Cissy Sleight explained that the County Council had moved away from the idea of having a mobile preschool unit in the school grounds and had advised that it will cost £1m to build a new classroom. There are 7-8 other bids for funding school extensions. Cissy explained that a mobile classroom for preschool could offer 5-days a week wrap around care which could turn the school's provision around.

It was suggested that the preschool committee could approach Mission Street to see if a small preschool could be built on site or provision could be made to provide funding for a preschool on school grounds. It was noted that there were various Ofsted criteria that needed to be met.

Cissy explained that with only 8 children entering school reception this year, the school were lacking funding. Cissy asked if the village hall could reconsider providing space to preschool.

Geoff Barnes noted that both Melbourn and Barrington were likely to be short on childcare provision with new developments in those areas. He added that when the village hall and school was built there was a plan to extend it into the playground in the future. He advised that Cissy find a copy of the original plans and agreements which would most likely be in the County Council archives.

A resident advised that the preschool committee had been waiting for a response from the County Council regarding the preschool proposal since March 2020.

Caroline Ilott asked Cissy to provide a short report of what the preschool needs in the short term to run 5 days a week so that a discussion can be had with RGT and VHT about this.

3 members of the public left

10. Co-option of candidate for Parish Council vacancy

a. Candidate for Parish Council vacancy is invited to speak and there will be an opportunity for questions from the Parish Council

Colin Reynolds was invited to speak. Colin advised that he had lived in Foxton since 2004 and had recently discovered Foxton Woods. He started litter picking in the village and decided that he would like to do more to help the village. Colin further explained that he worked at Addenbrookes part time and could therefore spare a couple of days per week for the Parish Council. His expertise was in IT, with a computer science degree and having worked for a website development company.

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 to be discussed in the following agenda item b:

Proposed Caroline Ilott, seconded Chris Herriot. All agreed.

b. Consideration of candidate The meeting was closed to the public for a short discussion about the candidate by the Parish Council. Members of the public, including the candidate, were invited to re-join the meeting after 5 minutes.

3 members of the public including Colin Reynolds returned to the meeting.

c. Vote and resolution on co-option of candidate for Parish Council vacancy

Caroline Ilott nominated Colin Reynolds as a member of Foxton Parish Council. Proposed Ian Francis, seconded Chris Herriot. All agreed.

Colin Reynolds signed the declaration of acceptance and joined the meeting.

11. Any Planning, Infrastructure, R&A, S106 and Police updates will be provided in writing

Caroline Ilott advised that work on the Thriplow Grain store was due to start and the High Street road surfacing was due to start tomorrow. The storm drain work on the Green had been completed.

Peter Tye advised that the Football Foundation app was close to launching and the pitch inspection would be undertaken soon. He had sought quotes from Calloo for skate park remedial work and Peter Evans for playground remedial work following the latest RosPA report.

12. Invitation from Harston Parish Council to join South Cambs Rural Parishes Group

It was agreed to accept this invitation to join the group. Peter Tye added that a Foxton bypass and community policing could also be considered. Proposed Caroline Illott, seconded Chris Herriot. All agreed.

13. Planning Committee Report and applications:

- a. Reference: 22/01823.FUL The Burlington Press, 1 Station Road, Foxton Burlington Press extension and alterations to the Press Building**
<https://applications.greatercambridgeplanning.org/online-applications/PLAN/22/01823/FUL>

It was agreed to submit the following comment on this application:

Foxton Parish Council recommends refusal for this application and requests that it go to SCDC Planning Committee if the officer is minded to recommend approval. We also request that the SCDC Planning Committee make a site visit.

The principle of modernising and upgrading the internal fabric of Units 2 and 3 is supported, but this application is refused in its current form.

Foxton Neighbourhood Plan states:

Policy FOX/3 The Conservation Area and its setting

All new built development shall contribute positively to the existing historic character of the parish. This will be achieved by the following:

- *Within the Conservation Area, respecting and reinforcing Foxton's distinctive vernacular character as described in the Conservation Area Appraisal*
- *Within the built-up area that provides the setting of the Conservation Area, new buildings shall be a positive asset to the street scene: the height, scale and layout must respect the surrounding pattern and form of development and an appropriate palette of complementary materials shall be used, preferably traditional.*

This application needs to comply with this policy. At present there are some issues

- a) *The applicant wants to paint the window frames of the north elevation grey instead of the current dark blue. This would not be in keeping with the current dark blue colour scheme of the rest of the windows in the old building.*
- b) *The north elevations show a tall metal chimney flue which will be visible from all compass points. This is contrary to both the Conservation area and Fox 3.*

What sort of noise and emissions can be expected from this new flue and associated installations?

- c) *The new buildings on the north side have grey metal panels and 2 of the old windows will be removed. Again this is very industrial and not in keeping with the setting. Perhaps a better colour and a more graduated design to help the old blend with the new could be considered.*
- d) *The improved accessibility for the entrance of the new designs is supported.*

- b. Reference: 22/01886/FUL 11 High Street, Foxton
<https://applications.greatercambridgeplanning.org/online-applications/PLAN/22/01886/FUL>

The conservation officer had confirmed to Caroline Ilott that the building was not listed. Geoff Barnes raised concern about this and it was agreed to include in the response that the listed status should be checked.

It was agreed to submit the following comment on this application:

Foxton Parish Council recommends approval for this application as long as the Conservation officer is content with the plans. Checks should be made on the listed status of the stable block.

The application is set within Foxton Conservation Area and Policy Fox 4 of the Neighbourhood Plan states:

Policy FOX/4 Heritage Assets and their setting

Development proposals should conserve the significance of designated heritage assets such as listed buildings, scheduled monuments, the conservation area and their respective settings. Where proposals have any impact on a non-designated heritage asset as identified below, a balanced judgement will be applied having regard to the scale of any harm or loss and the significance of the heritage asset.

14. S106

a. Update, including new working group members

Caroline Ilott advised that the last S106 meeting was on 11 May 2022 and Laura Finnemore had joined the working group. Members of the working group are Ian Francis, Chris Herriot, Caroline Ilott, Peter Tye, Catherine Cairns, James Lord, Linda Smith and Laura Finnemore.

Catherine Cairns had drawn up a revised playground equipment list including all the costs available. Some items were still unknown. At the meeting, discussion took place on whether the Jupiterplay design was now in a fit state to proceed to the Parish Council for approval of costs, grant seeking and a possible bridging loan. It was felt that the original mandate of natural play equipment could now be upheld as there had been work done on looking at comparisons of other play companies' wood

and recycled plastic products. The conclusion was that the robinia wood products would fit the overall design concept. This had been backed up by the consultations to the village culminating in the data gathered from the Foxton Scarecrow festival in late 2021.

Jupiterplay will upgrade the plans free of charge (with a possible minimal charge for postage of display board) for 7 June. The costs list will also be updated.

The teenage area is now removed from the play area plan and gym equipment and a table tennis table will be considered by RGT as they will go on the bank near the allotments.

A new idea had been proposed to turn approximately a third of the basketball court into a wild flower meadow. This would mean that the most damaged part of the surface would not need to be removed but just lightly broken up. A thin layer of poor soil could be laid down and wildflower seeds scattered.

The S106 leaflet was distributed at the Plant Swop and Jubilee picnic. The school fete has been cancelled due to lack of help but a school picnic may take place on the recreation ground instead and the leaflet distributed then. The leaflet had also been sent home with all Foxton School children after agreement with Mrs Muir, the Headteacher.

The working group will undertake research into other Parish Council playgrounds/grants/loans/financing/maintenance and any anti-social behaviour issues/bylaws.

The best forward estimate for this project start is Spring 2023 but it is more likely to be September 2023.

The Foxton Gardens Association (FGA) had given an 'in principle' vote of support for some unspecified FGA donation for planting and had requested a planting plan to assess their donation level.

b. S106 Application for Foxton Village Hall WIFI installation £4080 (inc VAT)

The Parish Council had received an application from the Village Hall Trust (VHT) for S106 funds to install the infrastructure required to extend the WIFI service throughout the village hall. Caroline Ilott advised that the S106 funds could be used for the capital and installation cost and any ongoing costs would be met by VHT. VHT were satisfied that their bid for this infrastructure would be suitable and future proof. The S106 policy allowed a full grant up to £5000. Proposed Peter Tye, seconded Ian Francis. All agreed.

15. R&A

a. Change to village warden scope of work

Caroline Ilott advised that Peter Tye and herself had asked Peter Evans to reduce his litter picking in Foxton Woods in order to carry out cleaning of the recreation ground play equipment, tables and benches.

b. Report from Rospa on full recreation ground assessment

The ROSPA report had been circulated which outlined remedial work required for the skatepark and playground and provided a risk assessment of the whole recreation ground. It noted that the touch line of the football pitch came within 1.5 metres of the cricket square and the football pitch required a minimum 3 metre runoff space free from obstacles. Advice is awaited on the cricket square cordoning off equipment and therefore it was agreed to hold back payment for this work until the advice is received.

The remaining 2 members of the public left the meeting.

c. Update on Football Foundation grant progress

Peter Tye advised that the Grounds Maintenance Association will be coming to Foxton recreation ground in July and that the Football Foundation app required for the pitch inspection should be up and running by then.

d. Update on informal football goal and gym equipment

Caroline Ilott advised that the gym equipment will be considered by RGT at its meeting on 20 June 2022. Caroline Ilott had spoken to adults and children from Foxton school at the village Jubilee picnic and all children (boys and girls) and most adults favoured a fixed informal goal. Out of 20 adults, 19 favoured a fixed goal with one adult not minding either way. The children did not want the responsibility of moving a goal and did not want the trouble of this. It was proposed to move forward with a proposal for a fixed goal and seek quotes for Parish Council consideration for a 16x7ft goal, artificial surface for the goal mouth and grass matting. Proposed Caroline Ilott, seconded Chris Herriot. All agreed. This will be discussed further at the 14 June S106 meeting.

e. Update from Parish Council meeting with Sports Clubs

Notes of the meeting had been circulated. A further meeting will be arranged to update on risk assessment and the football foundation grant.

Peter Tye left the meeting.

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 item 24

Proposed Caroline Ilott, seconded Chris Herriot. All agreed.

Consider legal correspondence relating to 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

It was agreed to move this motion forward from Item 24. Due to the confidential and privileged nature of this item, this item was discussed in a closed meeting of the Parish Council.

The meeting was opened to the public for item 16, although there were no members of the public remaining.

16. Approval of quotes:

a. Ratification of Insurance renewal for three-year fixed term – BHIB £1301 Gallagher of £1,645.75. Insurance quote from BHIB received after the last Parish Council meeting. Insurance renewal due 1 June 2022

At the last Parish Council meeting it was agreed to accept the quote from Gallagher for £1645.75. Subsequently a more comprehensive and cheaper quote was received from BHIB. Having received approval from all parish councillors (all by email except Geoff Barnes by phone), and under the clerk's delegated authority to determine any urgent matter in the purview of the Parish Council where it is impracticable to convene a meeting of that body to consider a matter, the BHIB quote for £1301 for a three-year term was accepted. It was agreed to ratify and minute the acceptance of the BHIB quote. Proposed Caroline Ilott, seconded Chris Herriot. All agreed.

b. 2 hours per month maintenance work on area behind playground £40

Proposed Caroline Ilott, seconded Ian Francis. All agreed.

17. Finance

a. Approval of payments

The bank reconciliation and bank statements were reviewed and approved by Chris Herriot.

The following payments were approved. Proposed Caroline Ilott, seconded Chris Herriot. All agreed.

Payments

Payments made (prior agreed)

1. Salary (SO) - LGA 1972 s112	£1000.00
2. Pension - LGA 1972 s112, s111	£51.68
3. Google Ireland Gmail - LGA 1972 s111, s142	£41.40
4. Opus Metered street lights - Parish Councils Act 1957, s3; Highways Act 1980 s301	£18.58 inc VAT
5. Information Commissioners Office Data Protection fee - LGA 1972 s111	£35.00
6. SCDC, bin emptying Litter Act 1983, ss5-6	£1029.60 inc VAT
7. Royston & District Community Transport donation s137	£100.00
8. Amazon office supplies (laminating pouches, pad and pens) - LGA 1972 s111	£25.84 inc VAT

Payments to be authorised

1. Parish Clerk Salary, NI/tax, phone and home allowance LGA 1972 s112/ LGA 1972 s111	£108.27
2. Parish Clerk Expenses – mileage - LGA 1972 s111	£11.52
3. DP Garden Works May grass cutting/ litter pick - Open Spaces Act 1906 s9-10	£550.00
4. Langham Press Jubilee Picnic flier - LGA 1972 s111 Authorised PC Meeting 9 May 2022	£65.00
5. SW Gardens grass cutting May (1) - Open Spaces Act 1906 s9-10	£185.00
6. SW Gardens grass cutting May (2) - Open Spaces Act 1906 s9-10	£185.00
7. Foxton Cricket Club May grass cutting - Open Spaces Act 1906 s9-10	£350.00

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|-----|---|-----------------|----------------|
| 8. | CAPALC Clerk Archiving & retention training
Authorised PC Meeting 4 April 2022 | - LGA 1972 s111 | £30.00 |
| 9. | Balfour Beatty Street Lights maintenance contract
Parish Councils Act 1957, s3; Highways Act 1980 s301 | | £72.00 inc VAT |
| 10. | Top up Lloyds Treasurers Account | | £25.84 |

Payments received after agenda published

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|----|---|---------|
| 1. | SCDC uncontested election fee - LGA 1972 s111 | £150.00 |
| 2. | ROSPA inspection - Open Spaces Act 1906 s9-10, Public Health Act 1875, s164
Authorised PC Meeting 4 April 2022 | £558.00 |

Hold payment until awaited advice received.

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|----|---|---------|
| 3. | Barnes Garden Maintenance - Open Spaces Act 1906 s9-10
Authorised by Clerk and Chair | £40.00 |
| 4. | Peter Evans village warden 8 hrs Open Spaces Act 1906 s9-10 | £140.00 |

*Local Government Act

18. Parish Councillor response time

Caroline Ilott asked Parish Councillors to try to respond to emails within 48 hours and if unavailable to let the clerk know.

19. Ideas to encourage new parish councillors to fill vacancies – this was deferred to the July Parish Council meeting

20. Ways of getting PC information to residents - social media, leaflets, Laurentian – this was deferred to the July Parish Council meeting

21. Review of policies – this was deferred to the July Parish Council meeting

22. Items for next agenda

23. Date and time of Parish Council Meeting: Monday 4 July 2022 at 7.30pm

24. Consider legal correspondence relating to 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
Motion moved to Item 15

The meeting closed at 10.05pm.



Annabel Wright
Foxton Parish Clerk
10 June 2022

Appendix 1 Burlington Press Site Slides - awaited

Appendix 2 County Councillor Report

Useful NHS video on the new Integrated Care Services

The NHS is in the process of enormous transformation which will require it to work closely with local authorities and the voluntary sector from 1st July 2022 when it will become statutory. This is in recognition that services are very fragmented and confusing and that change is needed to improve outcomes for people. To explain a little more about these changes please follow the link <https://www.kingsfund.org.uk/audio-video/how-does-nhs-in-england-work>

The Community Ownership Fund updated prospectus and webinars

DLUHC has published a new prospectus for the Community Ownership Fund ahead of round 2 of the fund opening in June. The £150m Fund helps communities across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland to take ownership of assets and amenities at risk of closure. From July 2021, community groups have been able to bid for up to £250k matched-funding to help them buy or take over local community assets at risk of being lost, to run as community-owned businesses. In exceptional cases, up to £1m matched-funding is available to help establish a community-owned sports club or help buy a sports ground at risk of being lost without community intervention. DLUHC has today published an updated prospectus ahead of the fund opening for Expression of Interest (EOI) applications to round 2 on 10 June. DLUHC has made some changes to the eligibility requirements and application process for the fund having learnt lessons from the review of the first bidding round. These changes will be explained in the updated Community Ownership Fund prospectus. Further supporting guidance will be published once the fund has opened for full applications later in June. In order to promote the fund and to explain to any prospective applicants what is required in order to submit a strong bid, DLUHC officials will be hosting webinars on 8 and 16 June. Councils are encouraged to promote these events with any groups who would be interested in attending and share the link to the form below so that DLUHC can forward on an invite. DLUHC will also be making a recording of the event for those unable to attend a webinar, which can be sent on request using the same form.

Announcement:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/eligibility-for-community-ownership-fund-expanded>

Prospectus:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/community-ownership-fund-prospectus>

Guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/new-levelling-up-and-community-investments#the-community-ownership-fund>

Webinar Registration Form:

<https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=EGg0v32c3kOociSi7zmVqLXwFDTcKQdPuyZtS-INwH5UMFRUNTIMWEcyQzBNNUxRNkpSMVZONEIIOC4u>

Cost of Living Payment guidance

On 26 May the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) published guidance on getting an extra payment to help with the cost of living for those entitled to certain benefits or tax credits. Individuals do not need to apply, if they're eligible, they'll be paid automatically. The payments are not taxable and will not affect the benefits or tax credits you get. Councils are encouraged to share this information as appropriate.

Guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/cost-of-living-payment>

Announcement:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/millions-of-most-vulnerable-households-will-receive-1200-of-help-with-cost-of-living>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/cost-of-living-payment>

Statement:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/cost-of-living-support>

Factsheet:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/cost-of-living-support/cost-of-living-support-factsheet-26-may-2022>

Super market Vouchers

Over 20,000 supermarket vouchers have been sent to families in Cambridgeshire affected by the pandemic and the rising cost of living. The vouchers were automatically sent to eligible families on 27th May in time for the May half term next week.

The County Council's Joint Administration agreed to finance the vouchers regardless of Government funding until the February 2023 half term.

A total of 21,322 vouchers – each valued at £15 for the week - were distributed to eligible children and young people across the county who met agreed criteria. The voucher does not need to be used in a single shopping trip and once claimed will last for at least a year.

Peter McDonald

June 5th 2022

Appendix 3 District Councillor Report

Councillor James Hobro

District Councillor for the parishes of Foxton, Fowlmere, Heydon, Great Chishill & Little Chishill.

I am always happy to hear from residents with any questions about these or other issues relating to the District Council. Please contact me by telephone on 07768 706670 or by email at cllr.hobro@scambs.gov.uk.

Energy Rebate of £150 given to residents

South Cambridgeshire District Council is giving rebates of £150 per household for properties in Council Tax bands A–D under the government £150 Energy Rebate scheme. This is designed to help mitigate the recent increases in energy costs.

The District Council is also operating a local rebate scheme that extends the government scheme for some additional householders. Anyone who is eligible but has not yet received their rebate can apply here. Please share this information as widely as you can, as some of the households most in need may not yet have claimed the rebate.

The first payments have been made to those who paid their April Council Tax instalment via Direct Debit, and where the bank details held match the names of those liable to pay the Council Tax charge. In addition to the main scheme, payments are also being made from the local scheme, which extends eligibility into the higher council tax bands for those in receipt of Local Council Tax Support, Disabled Band Relief or where certain exemptions apply.

Those that do not pay their Council Tax by Direct Debit, or where the bank account name details that we hold do not match the names of those liable to pay Council Tax, can provide their bank details on the web site. The Government requires that we undertake additional verification checks prior to payment, so these will take a little longer to process. We are currently looking at how best to support those that may be digitally excluded. If you have any concerns, please email energyrebate@scambs.gov.uk.

Support for Ukrainian refugees

South Cambridgeshire communities have stepped forward to help those fleeing Ukraine, with figures showing that the area has had more visas issued than any other district in the country. The District Council has been arranging payments for guests and hosts, and managing DBS checks and in-person visits to confirm that properties are suitable.

The District Council is keeping hosts and guests in South Cambridgeshire connected via regular bulletin updates and has established online communities and webinars to bring together both hosts and guests. An online welcome pack for new arrivals from Ukraine has been created and continues to be updated as further useful information becomes available.

A scheme to supply 10 free one-day bus travelcards to all guests is being arranged to cover the period just after groups have arrived. This is expected to be ready within a couple of weeks.

The District Council has also set up a scheme to provide free bicycles to Ukrainian guests,

working alongside OWL Bikes and Camtrust.

For more information, please see the SCDC Support for Ukraine web page.

Zero Carbon News

The deadline for grant applications for this year's Zero Carbon Community Grants has been extended until 17th June. The District Council is offering £120,000 in grants to Parish Councils and other community organisations of up to £15,000 for projects that will reduce carbon emissions, strengthen the natural environment, and increase community engagement on climate change.

A wide range of projects could qualify, including tree planting, community nature spaces, cycling improvements and efficiency gains in community buildings. In 2021, Fowlmere Parish Council received a £3000 Zero Carbon grant to install cycle stands in public places throughout the village.

South Cambridgeshire District Council has been recognised for its work to tackle climate change, with a Silver accolade at the 2022 Public Sector Transformation Awards. The Council's Green to our Core programme is supported by its Zero Carbon Strategy and Doubling Nature Strategy.

Highlights of the Council's approach include Greening South Cambridgeshire Hall with a £1.8M energy efficiency retrofit to include a ground source heat pump, solar carport, upgraded lighting and other elements.

We were one of the first Councils to adopt a fully electric refuse collection vehicle with more on the way, and we are developing a solar farm to power the lorries.

We've upgraded 1,800 street lights with low energy bulbs and awarded £314,415 to 51 different community groups to support carbon reduction projects including setting up E-Bike schemes, installing infra-red heating panels in community buildings, holding sustainable food festivals, tree planting, energy efficient lighting and waste reduction.

Tailored advice and Community Toolkits

A new personalised advice service is available from the District Council which will identify free tools and funding to tackle local problems and create safer communities in South Cambridgeshire.

Residents and community groups can complete a short online form outlining the initiative they want to set up or the problem they want to solve, and Council staff will offer tailored solutions. The guidance will include information about different grants that a particular

project might be eligible for, the most appropriate toolkits to use, and introductions to community contacts who have seen success in similar projects locally.

If you are thinking about setting up a new group, encouraging others to take an interest in issues that matter to you, or addressing a local concern but aren't sure where to start, you can complete the short form online.

For those communities that would like to plan for the longer-term, Council colleagues can

also talk to you about creating a Community Led Plan.

For more details, see the Council's video on the Community Safety Partnership toolkit.

Fitness and Wellbeing Grants

South Cambridgeshire District Council is urging instructors to apply for up to £300 to lead fitness and wellbeing activities in their communities.

Anyone who leads an existing group or who wants to set up a new initiative in the District, such as leading a walking group in their local park or running a weekly yoga class in a village hall, could be eligible for the small grant. Providers running multiple groups can also apply to fund multiple programmes.

Activities could range from walking football/rugby/netball, to chair-based exercise classes, diabetes walking groups, yoga for the over 60s, baby yoga classes or more.

The grant, which is funded by Cambridgeshire County Council, is to help deliver physical activity programmes provided by the District Council in partnership with Living Sport. It is designed to cover costs such as venue hire for up to six weeks, with new participants being entitled to four free sessions. Once the free sessions are complete, participants would be expected to begin paying a small fee to continue participation, meaning that the initiative should become a sustainable source of income for the instructor.

Full details are available on the District Council web site.

Property investment produces early payback

When the Liberal Democrat group took over the running of the District Council four years ago, we inherited a financial deficit leading to a requirement to generate income. This was necessary to supplement the shrinking funding from central government.

This led us to develop a property investment plan, and we purchased several commercial buildings, largely in the science and technology parks around Cambridge. These were, in large part, responsible for the generation of £5m per year additional income.

One of those properties has very recently been sold on, after a very attractive, unsought bid was received, for around double the purchase price just 15 months before. This has added over £10m to the Council's coffers, and provides us with a very strong financial foundation for the next few years.