

Babraham Parish Council: Minutes of Meeting held 13th February 2025

Stuart Laurie: Chair

Denise Dear: Vice Chair

Rob Attwood

Jane Goody

Tim Jones

Chris Chapman BRC

Cllr Brian Milnes

Anne Charteris: Clerk

Members of the Public: 0

	Part I: Non-Confidential Information
2502/01	To receive and approve apologies for absence . Apologies received from Cllr Peter McDonald
2502/02	To receive members' declaration of interest for items on this agenda None declared
2502/03	To sign and approve minutes of meeting dated 9th January 2025 Minutes approved and signed off.
2502/04	Exclusion of the public To determine which items, if any, from Part 1 of the Agenda should be taken with the public excluded
2502/05	<p>Report from South Cambridgeshire District Councillor P McDonald The report can be found in full on the website, but in brief</p> <p>Local government reorganisation On 16 December the government published a White Paper called English Devolution which included a push towards conversion to unitary councils in two-tier authority areas such as Cambridgeshire. In this region our two tiers are Cambridgeshire County Council and the district councils. The White Paper included a requirement for local authorities to submit proposals for reorganisation at the end of March. A letter from the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government has been promised to define the expectations from government in more detail. In the meantime there have of course been many conversations between the various branches of local government. The government has indicated that it will be adopting a phased approach to this reorganisation with an initial focus on areas where the current system is clearly failing. On this basis, and given the focus on delivering local growth, it seems unlikely that Cambridgeshire will be selected for early reorganisation. However, little is known for certain at this stage.</p> <p>Increased funding for electric vehicle chargers The funding available from the Council's electric vehicle (EV) charging grant has increased from £5,000 to £12,000 per project. The grant is open to parish councils, community groups and charities and can be used to fund the installation of EV chargers in car parks associated with community buildings</p> <p>Green bin collection</p>

The green bins will be collected once in February (on 4 February) alongside the blue recycling bins, with a blue-bin-only collection taking place on 18 February. From the beginning of March, they will be emptied fortnightly again.

Council housing and its allocation

South Cambridgeshire District Council is responsible for around 5600 Council houses across the district. The Council is building new housing stock at a rate of around 75 houses per year to help rebuild the social housing supply that has historically been in decline. This year, over £1 million is being spent on improving the insulation and heating for existing Council houses.

The allocation of Council houses is managed by Home-Link, a shared service that covers Cambridgeshire and West Suffolk. The allocation policies are designed to allow people seeking social housing to exercise choice in deciding where they wish to live and in the type of property they prefer, while prioritising by housing need and making the best use of the housing available. Anyone can apply for Council housing at www.home-link.org.uk or via a paper form.

Four-day working week consultation

The Council began a consultation on the four-day working week on 27 January which runs for eight weeks until 23 March. The aim is to gather data from residents and businesses on how the quality of the Council's services has changed since January 2023, when the trial of the new working practices began. This will be used alongside the other extensive sources of data on the Council's costs and performance to decide the next steps for this working practice. The aim of the trial was to improve value for money in the light of the difficulties in recruiting and retaining permanent staff, especially in the Planning service.

<https://engage.scams.gov.uk/en-GB/folders/four-day-week>

OxCam Corridor and Super-Cluster

The Chancellor announced a re-hash of the OxCam corridor which is to be Chaired by Lord Vallance and I attach a link to the report.

<https://oxcamsupercluster.publicfirst.co.uk/Oxford%20%20Cambridge%20Scenario%20Modelling-2.pdf>

LED Street Lighting

Work started in earnest in the New Year to replace the majority of our existing streetlighting with newer, more efficient LED (light emitting diode) lights – this can cut energy consumption from street lighting by more than half.

Cambridgeshire County Council is responsible for more than 53,500 streetlights across the county, approximately 47,500 of which will be replaced by LED replacements under this scheme.

You can find out more about our streetlight replacement programme [on our website](#).

Information on how to report a street lighting fault, and likely repair times are on our website: www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/roads-and-pathways/streetlighting

Frequent A & E Patients

A new specialist team is helping to reduce avoidable visits to Accident and Emergency (A&E) departments across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

Known as the High Impact Use team (HIU), the service is a partnership between NHS Cambridgeshire & Peterborough and Cambridgeshire County Council (who host the service) on behalf of the Integrated Care System (ICS). This service helps those who often attend A&E for reasons that extend beyond medical interventions and for needs which would be better met by other professionals

2502/06	Report from Cambridgeshire County Councillors Brian Milnes and Maria King No report received yet,
2502/07	Report from Babraham Research Campus (BRC) representative 1 Invitations have been sent out to attend the exhibition on the 26 th Feb between 4pm and 7 pm in the Cambridge building. This event will set out the ambitions to grow Companies and future plans. You will be able to learn more about our current thinking and to share your views on how the Campus facilities can be shaped for the future. You will be able to meet the project team, see our early proposals and provide us with feedback. We will also be able to update you on our plans to open up Campus facilities to local residents. There is the opportunity to give your views via a survey. Another event will follow up this one to present the feedback received, this will be held at the end of April/beginning of May 2 A second event will be held on March 11 th , this will be presented by the Archaeology unit, showing the finds from the past 25 years. 3. It has been reported that motorcyclists have been riding on footpaths around the Campus, if anyone sees this happening, please report to the Police and Campus. 4 E Cycles and Scooters: the License has been applied for to allow this permission to use the cyclepath from Cambridge to the Campus and also be available to use around the estate.
2502/08	Public participation time – 15 minutes allowed No public present.
2502/09	CSET- updates and Objection A letter from the Parish Council will be sent to CSET objecting to the present Busway plans. The letter was approved by all, proposed by SL and seconded by TJ, all in agreement. Objections can also be sent in from private individuals.,
2502/10	Village Hall- update. Talks are underway to transfer the funds for the Village Hall to the Parish Council so that all assets are together. Permission needs to be given by the Charity. There was some discussion about the proposed plans of the Village Hall- will the area be enough and would there be a Parish Council room where eg some Archives could be stored, tea and coffee facilities.
2502/11	Forest Garden Project. Update Denise Dear has asked for another meeting of the steering committee to be held as the last one was some while ago. Hedging will be arriving between the 3 rd and 7 th March, this will consist of hawthorn and blackthorn and other varieties. Tree guards and wood chippings will be needed- there may be some guards left from the initial planting and Chris Chapman was asked whether the Campus had any spare chippings that could be used. Help to plant these would be appreciated. It was proposed by SL, seconded by RA and all in agreement to purchase a container (approx. £1500) that could be sited in the Forest Garden to store equipment and Archive Parish Council records, and also a ride on mower to be purchased, approx. £150. SL to contact BRC to see if electric could be installed? Information boards still to be purchased. CC said that Campus was not keen to put in a gate, however part of the fencing could be removed and the large bin relocated so that people could access the river walk that way.
2502/12	Neighbourhood Plan- update.
2502/13	Nothing to report, Updates from last meeting. Highways problems <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speed bumps problems This has been reported to the Contractor by Cllr Brian Milnes, this to be chased as the bumps are not fit for purpose.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Archive storage- Possible siting of container for storage, Clerk has asked Planning dept to see if permission needed- as it is a mobile container, permission not needed.																														
2502/14	<p>General Village Matters and new items for discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">There is a lot of rubbish along the flint wall that needs clearingThe Grit bin has now been sited near the War Memorial. <p>Renewal of Contract for grass cutting and bin emptying-due May 2025. Clerk to ask for tenders for this contract,</p> <p>FINANCE</p>																														
2502/15	<p>Receipts and Transfers (as of 9th Feb 2025)</p> <p>HMRC VAT refund £1204.30 Unity Trust Bank Interest £941.05</p>																														
2502/16	<p>Payments (as of 9th Feb 2025)</p> <table><tr><td>Clerk</td><td>Salary/Tax/Expenses-</td><td>confidential</td></tr><tr><td>Hugo Fox</td><td>Website provider</td><td>£35.99</td></tr><tr><td>Unity Trust bank</td><td>Bank charges</td><td>£6.45</td></tr><tr><td>Clerk</td><td>Diary</td><td>£3.85</td></tr><tr><td>MSM Consulting</td><td>Village Hall</td><td>£360.00</td></tr><tr><td>Roadware</td><td>Grit Bin</td><td>£110.34</td></tr><tr><td>Brookfield</td><td>Grass and Bins</td><td>£1215.00</td></tr><tr><td>Better Busway</td><td>Donation</td><td>£100</td></tr><tr><td>Altone</td><td>Printing newsletter</td><td>£65.00</td></tr><tr><td>Rob Attwood</td><td>Mower/petrol/oil</td><td>62.55</td></tr></table> <p>A full list of payments was circulated and approved at the meeting</p>	Clerk	Salary/Tax/Expenses-	confidential	Hugo Fox	Website provider	£35.99	Unity Trust bank	Bank charges	£6.45	Clerk	Diary	£3.85	MSM Consulting	Village Hall	£360.00	Roadware	Grit Bin	£110.34	Brookfield	Grass and Bins	£1215.00	Better Busway	Donation	£100	Altone	Printing newsletter	£65.00	Rob Attwood	Mower/petrol/oil	62.55
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2502/17	<p>Balances and Bank Reconciliation at 9th Feb 2025</p> <table><tr><td>Unity Current A/C balance</td><td>£2765.78</td></tr><tr><td>Unity Savings A/C balance</td><td>£141,453.62</td></tr><tr><td>Cambridge Building Society</td><td>£81,900.13</td></tr><tr><td>TOTAL</td><td>£226,119.53</td></tr><tr><td colspan="2">Above total includes Reserves:</td></tr><tr><td>Sec 106/ Village Hall</td><td>£142819.24</td></tr><tr><td>Public Art</td><td>£ 18,207.55</td></tr><tr><td>Playground</td><td>£25,000.00</td></tr><tr><td>Forest Garden</td><td>£1778.00</td></tr><tr><td>Total Reserved</td><td>£187804.79</td></tr><tr><td>Total remaining for PC</td><td>£38,314.74</td></tr></table> <p>PLANNING</p>	Unity Current A/C balance	£2765.78	Unity Savings A/C balance	£141,453.62	Cambridge Building Society	£81,900.13	TOTAL	£226,119.53	Above total includes Reserves:		Sec 106/ Village Hall	£142819.24	Public Art	£ 18,207.55	Playground	£25,000.00	Forest Garden	£1778.00	Total Reserved	£187804.79	Total remaining for PC	£38,314.74								
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2502/18	<p>Applications received: Local Planning Authority: South Cambridgeshire District Council Proposal: Conversion and renovation of the existing outbuildings and courtyard at Chalk Farm into</p>																														

	<p>12 No. short stay lettable accommodation and the installation of air source heat pumps together with hard and soft landscaping. Site address: Chalk Farm High Street Babraham Reference: 24/03873/FUL Public Access Link: https://applications.greatercambridgeplanning.org/online-applications/PLAN/24/03873/FUL</p>
2502/19	Planning decisions: none
2502/20	Correspondence.
2502/21	<p>Items for inclusion in the next meeting EV charging points in the village. Breakfast at then Church get-together.</p> <p>Date of next meetings: Thursday 13th March 2025 at 7.30pm Thursday 10th April 2025</p> <p>Part II: Confidential Information</p>
2502/22	<p>Exclusion of the Press and the Public: To resolve that in accordance with Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and by reason of the confidential nature of the remainder of the business, the Press and the Public be excluded from the meeting.</p> <p>Signature: <i>Anne Charteris</i> 16th Feb 2025 10 Duxford Road, Hinxton, Saffron Walden, Essex, CB10 1RB 01799 531827</p>