

# Babraham Parish Council: Minutes of Meeting held 12<sup>th</sup> September 2024

**Present:**

**Stuart Laurie: Chair**

**Denise Dear: Vice Chair**

**Jane Goody**

**Peter McDonald: District Councillor**

**Anne Charteris: Clerk**

	<p><b>Part I: Non-Confidential Information</b></p>
2409/01	<p><b>To receive and approve apologies for absence</b> Chris Chapman and Rob Attwood</p>
2409/02	<p><b>To receive members' declaration of interest for items on this agenda</b> None</p>
2409/03	<p><b>To sign and approve minutes of meeting dated 11<sup>th</sup> July 2024</b> Minutes were approved and signed</p>
2409/04	<p><b>Exclusion of the public</b> To determine which items, if any, from Part 1 of the Agenda should be taken with the public excluded</p>
2409/05	<p><b>To Co-Opt new Councillor (if any applicants )- 1 Vacancy.</b> No applications received</p>
2409/06	<p><b>Report from South Cambridgeshire District Councillor P McDonald</b> The report can be found in full on the website, but in brief:</p> <p><b>Zero Carbon Grants</b> The sixth round of South Cambridgeshire's Zero Carbon Community (ZCC) grants have been announced, distributing £125,000 across 11 innovative projects. The grant scheme supports projects which help reduce carbon emissions, lock up carbon, and foster community engagement on climate change. This year's ZCC grant initiatives include solar panels for community buildings, a strengthened repair café network to encourage waste reduction and a group aiming to help people adopt climate-friendly gardening practices at home.</p> <p><b>Planning Super Squad</b> Greater Cambridge Shared Planning has been allocated up to £650,000 from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government to help make the whole planning process even more efficient. This funding is part of the accelerator project aimed at enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of planning services locally, colloquially named the 'Planning Supersquad'. Greater Cambridge Shared Planning (GCSP), a partnership between South Cambridgeshire District and Cambridge City councils, is also contributing money to the project.</p> <p><b>Lithium Battery Disposal</b> Residents are being encouraged to never bin batteries or electrical gadgets in a new advertising poster campaign on the side of refuse collection lorries.</p>

2409/07	<p>Bin lorry and recycling centre blazes are becoming increasingly common across the UK as we buy and throw away more electronic items containing batteries, including vapes, e-cigarettes, mobile phones and e-bike battery packs. Already, seven fires have occurred in the Greater Cambridge area in 2024.</p> <p><b>Combined Authority Bus Franchising Consultation started August 14th</b> Bus services in our area are poor and have been declining over many years. The Transport Act 1985 removed the public sector's role in fare-setting, routes, and bus frequencies. Bus services are run by commercial provider; where a commercial provider does not come forward the local transport authority may step in with a publicly subsidized 'contracted service' – and this is the case for all of our local bus services. The Mayoral Combined Authority (which is our Local Transport Authority) launched a consultation on August 14 proposing a new framework of public control permitted in the mayoral local government framework. The consultation will run for 14 weeks and will compare a franchising solution with an Enhanced Partnership approach</p> <p><b>Civil Parking Enforcement</b> A total of 1757 town patrols covering 6687 street visits in South Cambridgeshire have been completed by the Civil Enforcement Officers (CEO) since 1st February 2024 through to the end of June. Patrols have predominantly focussed on areas where parking is in the greatest demand, such as commuting and shopping areas.</p> <p><b>Appeal launched to address shortage of school governors in Cambridgeshire</b> An exciting appeal has been launched by Cambridgeshire County Council to recruit more school governors. There are around 50 vacancies that need to be filled in Cambridgeshire. Figures suggest that a shortage of school governors is a national issue, and this scheme will aim to attract a diverse range of people to help support schools across Cambridgeshire. Governors are crucial to help schools navigate all aspects of school life, while maintaining a focus on learning, and the provision of a high-quality education.</p> <p><b>Report from Cambridgeshire County Councillors Brian Milnes and Maria King Covid Vaccine Programme</b> The government has accepted advice from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation for an autumn COVID-19 vaccination programme this year. All those aged 65 or over, all those in care homes for older people, and those aged six months or over who are in a clinical risk group, will be eligible for vaccination this autumn.</p> <p><b>Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme</b> The Government has extended the funding through this programme into the next financial year. Further details for Cambridgeshire will follow.</p> <p><b>'My Smile' accreditation for Children &amp; Family Centres</b> All of the County Council's Child &amp; Family Centres and Family Hubs are now 'My Smile' accredited. The 'My Smile' programme is aimed at reducing oral health inequalities for the most deprived and disadvantaged children in early years. The programme offers training to Child &amp; Family Centre and Family Hub staff by the Oral Health team from Dental Health Care, part of Cambridgeshire Community Services NHS Trust.</p> <p><b>Old Shire Hall</b> The County Council's Assets &amp; Procurement Committee has agreed to enter into an exclusivity arrangement with a preferred bidder for a freehold sale of the old Shire Hall building in Cambridge. The move comes after the previous preferred bidder pulled out of a proposal for a leasehold arrangement, and a new marketing exercise was undertaken.</p>
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The Committee also agreed to make arrangements in the event that contracts are not exchanged by 9 October.

#### **Council owned companies**

The Committee has also agreed to establish arrangements for strengthened oversight of companies in which the council has an interest as owner, and to recommend the council's Constitution & Ethics Committee to establish a shareholder sub-committee to consider how this should be done.

#### **Active travel hierarchy consultation – open until 30 September**

A consultation on the development of an 'Active Travel Hierarchy' was launched on 22 July. This seeks feedback on which routes and public rights of way are considered most important to users, as well as asking residents about their preferences for prioritised maintenance activities. We have given feedback, that the consultation was difficult to use and understand. In response, the council has revised the online material to make it easier and extended the consultation to 30 September. [Active Travel Hierarchy | Consult Cambridgeshire \(engagemthq.com\)](https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/engagemthq.com)

#### **Household Support Fund**

The new Government announced that the Household Support Fund will be continuing, this will be its fifth extension.

In April 2024, Cambridgeshire County Council was awarded over £3,580,000 to support households in need and help with the rising cost of living. The scheme has experienced significant demand, with large numbers of applications being submitted every day both directly and through partners. The council's Household Advice and Support Team continue to process applications, with the current processing time being approximately three weeks.

Advice is available to those struggling with the cost of living. Help with utility bills, housing support, emergencies and benefits:

[www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/council/communities/support-with-the-cost-of-living](https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/council/communities/support-with-the-cost-of-living)

The Government offers help and advice with living costs, childcare and maternity costs, managing money and debt and guidance for those over 60 or those who have a disability or health condition. [www.gov.uk/cost-of-living](https://www.gov.uk/cost-of-living)

#### **Community energy consultation**

The County Council is currently consulting on its proposed Action Plan to support community energy. The draft Action Plan and survey seeking your views on the proposals will remain open until Monday 16 September.

<https://consultcambcs.uk.engagemthq.com/community-energy-project>

#### **Waste partnership awards new recycling contract**

Local council waste partnership RECAP has awarded its contract for mixed dry recyclables (blue bin waste) to Biffa and Re-Gen after a procurement exercise. The contract was previously held by Thalia who run the waste facility at Waterbeach. The handover took place on 1 September.

#### **Vision Zero and iRAP (International Road Assessment Programme)**

An update on the Vision Zero Partnership will be presented to the County Council's Highways & Transport Committee in December. At the same meeting, a report setting out the analysis of the Council's A roads using the iRAP methodology will be considered.

Vision Zero is a road safety partnership including local councils, police, fire, NHS and other relevant organisations. It is committed to preventing all road deaths across

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, and to significantly reducing the severity of injuries, costs and social impacts resulting from road traffic collisions. iRAP is a registered charity working with governments, highways authorities, and others to provide the tools and training to make roads safer.

	<p><b>Government review of transport priorities</b> The new government is undertaking an internal review of the Department for Transport's capital spend portfolio and will be making recommendations about current and future schemes. This could have implications for schemes in or around Cambridgeshire, including the A10 from Ely to Cambridge, East West Rail, and the Ely Area Capacity Enhancements around Ely railway junction.</p> <p><b>Highways projects overview</b> The council wants to use its website more to enable residents to see more up to date information on highways projects. This is very much a work in progress, but some of the larger projects can be seen at <a href="https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/highway-projects/our-projects-andprogrammes">https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/highway-projects/our-projects-andprogrammes</a></p> <p><b>Local Highways Improvement schemes</b> Local Highways Improvement applications are being scored and will be presented to the Highways &amp; Transport Committee in October for approval. 36 of the 77 schemes added to the programme last year have been delivered, with a further ten ordered. Of the remainder, fourteen are with the contractor for pricing, fifteen are in design and consultation stage. Five schemes prior to 2023/24 have not yet been completed.</p> <p><b>20MPH schemes</b> Scoring of the new and updated applications took place in May and June in preparation for presentation to the Highways &amp; Transport Committee in October. These remain popular, with 65 applications received this year, many of which were re-submissions from the previous year. Some of the 2023/2024 have been delayed as applicants undertake further informal consultation following feedback from residents, or due to changes to guidance from the Department for Transport, and the amount of time the formal consultation phase is taking to conclude.</p> <p><b>Weeds</b> The first round of weed treatment, for those communities wishing to have this, is now coming to an end, and the second round will begin in October.</p> <p><b>Winter gritting</b> Preparations are under way for the 2024 winter, which starts on Friday 1 November, with salt barns being replenished and servicing of gritting vehicles</p>
2409/08	<p><b>Report from Babraham Research Campus (BRC) representative</b> No report received</p>
2409/09	<p><b>Public participation time – 15 minutes allowed.</b> No public present</p>
2409/10	<p><b>Granta River Project-</b> Sarah Sanderson from South Staffordshire Water spoke about this project, There is money available for work to improve weirs, facilitate the passage of brown trout upstream, putting in gravel etc. They will need permission from landowners along the river before any work can be done.They can also test water for nitrates, ammonia and phosphates. SL to contact BRC and Cheveley Park to pass on the information.</p>
2409/11	<p><b>Forest Garden Project. Update.</b> A meeting was held 2 months ago. It was agreed to hold a working party for anyone interested in helping, to be held the 1<sup>st</sup> Weds of each month between 12 and 2pm. Hannah Thomas will be applying for another grant from the Zero Carbon fund. No information boards have been put up yet. Clerk to contact Chris as there are some things which have not been done yet. A request to be sent to Hannah to submit a report. It was suggested that a large funnel be put on the IBCs to collect rainwater.</p>
2409/12	<p><b>Neighbourhood Plan-</b> No update received, this to be requested from the NP committee.</p>

<b>2409/13</b>	<p><b>Village Hall.</b> 2 invoices received from HCR solicitors for a total of £4,644.00. It was suggested that BPC take over the responsibility of the Village Hall money so that it is all in one place. This to be looked into.</p>																					
<b>2409/14</b>	<p><b>New Financial Regulations from NALC-</b> to be approved- deferred to next meeting.</p>																					
<b>2409/15</b>	<p><b>Updates from last meeting.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moving to a gov.uk email/domain, this has now been actioned and new log-ins sent round.</li> <li>• Footpath outside no 39- still nothing done, Clerk to chase this.</li> <li>• Archive storage- Cllr Laurie was to make enquiries on a possible storage location, still looking into this.</li> <li>• Turning right from the High St onto the A1307- Clerk has contacted Highways, no update as yet.</li> <li>• Cycle path to Abington- footpath renovations- Clerk has contacted Highways, will chase this up</li> <li>• Gate for area behind Forest Garden- Cllr Laurie was to make enquiries for costs and Chris Chapman to find out if this is possible to be done.</li> <li>• The railings have finally been repaired on the A1307</li> </ul>																					
<b>2409/16</b>	<p><b>General Village Matters and new items for discussion:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Speed bumps problems- Clerk has contacted Highways/contractor. PM will chase this up</li> <li>• Safety Mirror opposite Home Farm entrance- this has been broken, this was not bought by the Parish Council, thought to have been erected by Home Farm so that farm vehicles could exit the turn safely.</li> <li>• Fly Tipping- this has been seen along Cambridge Road and up Chalk Hill, Clerk to report to Council for them to remove.</li> <li>• PM reported that CSET/busway is still alive, £6million has been given by the Government to do an evaluation and investigation.</li> </ul>																					
	<p><b>FINANCE</b></p>																					
<b>2409/17</b>	<p><b>Receipts and Transfers (as of 5<sup>th</sup> Sept 2024)</b> <b>HMRC Tax refund £1429.86</b></p>																					
<b>2409/18</b>	<p><b>Payments (as of 5<sup>th</sup> Sept 2024) 2 months</b></p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 30%;">Clerk</td> <td style="width: 40%;">Salary/Tax/Expenses-</td> <td style="width: 30%; text-align: right;"><b>confidential</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hugo Fox</td> <td>Website provider</td> <td style="text-align: right;"><b>£71.98</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Brookfield</td> <td>Bins/grasscutting</td> <td style="text-align: right;"><b>£333.00</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ionos</td> <td>Email subs</td> <td style="text-align: right;"><b>£45.60</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Robert Attwood</td> <td>Mower supplies</td> <td style="text-align: right;"><b>£30.02</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>PKF Littlejohn</td> <td>External Audit</td> <td style="text-align: right;"><b>£504.00</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>CloudNext</td> <td>IT costs new email</td> <td style="text-align: right;"><b>£56.55</b></td> </tr> </table>	Clerk	Salary/Tax/Expenses-	<b>confidential</b>	Hugo Fox	Website provider	<b>£71.98</b>	Brookfield	Bins/grasscutting	<b>£333.00</b>	Ionos	Email subs	<b>£45.60</b>	Robert Attwood	Mower supplies	<b>£30.02</b>	PKF Littlejohn	External Audit	<b>£504.00</b>	CloudNext	IT costs new email	<b>£56.55</b>
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	<p><b>A full list of payments was circulated and approved at the meeting</b></p>																					

<b>2409/19</b>	<b>Balances and Bank Reconciliation at 5<sup>th</sup> Sept 2024</b>																				
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	<b>PLANNING</b>																				
<b>2409/20</b>	<p>Applications received:  Local Planning Authority: South Cambridgeshire District Council  Proposal: Structural repairs to the front wall, including the installation of tie bars and pattress plates.  Site address: 26 Brick Row High Street Babraham  Reference: 24/03287/LBC  Public Access Link: <a href="https://applications.greatercambridgeplanning.org/online-applications/PLAN/24/03287/LBC">https://applications.greatercambridgeplanning.org/online-applications/PLAN/24/03287/LBC</a></p>																				
<b>2409/21</b>	<b>Planning decisions: none</b>																				
<b>2409/22</b>	<b>Correspondence.</b>																				
<b>2409/23</b>	<p><b>Items for inclusion in the next meeting.</b></p> <p><b>Date of next meetings:</b> Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2024 at 7.30pm</p> <p><b>Part II: Confidential Information</b></p>																				
<b>2409/24</b>	<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>      <b>18<sup>th</sup> Sept 2024</b>  10 Duxford Road, Hinxton, Saffron Walden, Essex, CB10 1RB  01799 531827</p>																				