

# Babraham Parish Council:

## Minutes of Meeting held 13<sup>th</sup> March 2025

Stuart Laurie: Chair

Denise Dear: Vice Chair

Rob Attwood

Jane Goody

Chris Chapman BRC

Anne Charteris: Clerk

Members of the Public: 0

	<b>Part I: Non-Confidential Information</b>
<b>2503/01</b>	<b>To receive and approve apologies for absence</b> Tim Jones, Cllr Peter McDonald
<b>2503/02</b>	<b>To receive members' declaration of interest for items on this agenda</b> None declared
<b>2503/03</b>	<b>To sign and approve minutes of meeting dated 13<sup>th</sup> Feb 2025</b> Approved and signed,
<b>2503/04</b>	<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
<b>2503/05</b>	<b>Report from South Cambridgeshire District Councillor P McDonald</b> The report can be found in full on the website, but in brief <b>Council budget and Corporate Plan</b> At a Full Council meeting on 25 February, the council agreed its budget for 2025/26 and approved the new Corporate Plan up to 2030. The council's priorities remain supporting local businesses, fostering strong communities, being green to the core, and providing affordable, sustainable homes. Given the increasingly uncertain financial climate, we have added to the priority list the council's long-standing underlying aim of being financially secure for the future. New items in the forthcoming year include the construction of a milestone Community Centre in Northstowe, increasingly targeted cost-of-living support, work on the new food waste collection service and more funding to tackle fly-tipping. The plans for housing include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Another 75 new Council homes for rent and shared ownership;</li> <li>• Over £1 million to improve insulation and heating for existing Council housing;</li> <li>• More than £500,000 on preventing homelessness.</li> </ul> The council also agreed a 3% increase in the district's allocation from Council Tax (£5.09 per year, less than 10p per week). Note that this is below the state pension increase of 4.1% and the average wage growth in the past year of 5.9%. This is expected to keep the council's position among the lowest 25% of district council charges in the country. <b>New waste processing contract for more recycling</b> A new contract to process recycling collected from Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire residents' blue bins comes into effect in March. The new contract has been awarded to

	<p>Re-Gen, whose materials recycling facility is one of the most advanced in Europe, running on 100% renewable energy. Re-Gen were named both Paper Recycling Business of The Year and Recycling Business of The Year at last year's Awards for Excellence in Recycling and Waste Management. The new facility will be able to sort and recycle around 20% more of the material sourced from blue bins than at present. For example, it will be possible for 95% of glass to be re-melted and used for new bottles and jars, rather than most being used in road construction. There are no changes to the rules governing what waste can be put into blue bins.</p> <p><b>Local government reorganisation</b></p> <p>There will be an Extraordinary Meeting of the Full Council on 19 March to consider proposals for local government reorganisation, immediately followed by a Cabinet meeting to agree the council's submission to the government. This is to ensure that we meet the government's deadline for submissions of 21 March</p> <p><b>Five-year land supply</b></p> <p>In December the government published new planning policies, increasing the housing targets that many local councils are required to achieve, particularly in areas with high demand for housing. These new housebuilding targets came into effect immediately with no period to allow councils to adjust. The council had called for a transition period but the government did not agree to this. The target for Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire District was increased by over 30%. This has the effect of reducing the five-year land supply for the Greater Cambridge Shared Planning area from 6.5 years to just under 5 years.</p> <p><b>Four-day working week consultation</b></p> <p>The council began a consultation on the four-day working week on 27 January. This is a reminder that the consultation is still open and will close on 23 March. 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.</p> <p><b>Local Plan update</b></p> <p>Development of the emerging Local Plan for the 2030s has been on hold for over a year due to uncertainties over water supply and transport provision. However, Greater Cambridge Shared Planning has just announced that sufficient progress has been made to allow a draft Local Plan to be produced this year, for review by the council and for public consultation. I will provide more information as it becomes available</p>
2503/06	<p><b>Report from Cambridgeshire County Councillors Brian Milnes and Maria King</b></p> <p>The report can be found in full on the website, but in brief</p> <p><b>Local Government reorganisation</b></p> <p>All principal local authorities in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough need to respond to the Government no later than Friday 21 March to outline what they are considering for new, larger, unitary councils for our area.</p> <p>The criteria continue to include an expectation that the new councils will cover populations of at least 500,000 unless there are special circumstances; and that existing district council boundaries will be the building blocks, again unless a strong argument can be made against this.</p> <p>A further submission will need to be made to the Government in the autumn. There will be advantages to moving to a unitary council system, not least more clarity and accountability over who is responsible for services such as street lights or waste. But it's</p>

clear that the Government is wanting a quick solution, rather than taking the time—and consultation—to do it at a slower pace.

#### **Old Shire Hall**

The sale of (old) Shire Hall in Cambridge is on the agenda of the Assets & Procurement Committee for Friday 7 March. The premises was put back on the market for disposal in February 2024, and attracted fifteen bids. Following evaluation this number was reduced to a shortlist of four.

#### **Stapleford School chosen for a new Government pilot scheme**

Fourteen primary schools across Cambridgeshire are set to run a free breakfast club as part of the pilot for a new Government scheme in April. In total 750 schools across the country have been selected to take part in an 'early adopters' scheme which will test the delivery of the programme before it is implemented nationally.

The pilot is set to launch in April and will run until July, before it is introduced across the UK. The schools chosen for the pilot will offer a free breakfast to all pupils and at least 30 minutes of childcare before school.

The Education Secretary Bridget Phillipson said that the free breakfast clubs would help break the link "between background and success" for families. The scheme has been welcomed by the headteachers' union, though they fear that the funding allocated by Government will fall short of the cost, and have said it is 'crucial' that concerns are addressed before the national rollout.

#### **Security support for domestic abuse survivors**

The council has renewed a scheme which helps survivors of domestic abuse to feel safer and more secure in their own homes.

The scheme provides additional security measures which can delay or prevent a perpetrator from entering a property. It supported 525 people across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough between April 2023 and March 2024.

Measures offered depend on the level of risk, and may include window alarms, additional bolts, lock changes, security advice, video doorbells, dummy cameras, and response lights. The service is available for all types of housing, whether owned, privately rented, or social housing.

#### **Capital maintenance and improvement works**

On Tuesday 4 March the Highways & Transport Committee approved proposals for spending on capital maintenance and improvements. This includes the additional £8.146M from Government for highways maintenance.

The total capital budget for highways maintenance and improvements in 25/26 is £59.332 million. This is funded through a combination of grant funding and council investment.

Specific items for our Division in the coming year's programme include the following carriageway reconstructions:

- A1301 Great Shelford Tunwells Lane from Grahams Road to and inc. traffic signals
- A505 Pampisford Causeway Roundabout at A1301
- B1368 Harston London Road From junction with High Street to number 70
- Haslingfield Scotts Yard Fountains Lane to end
- Sawston St Mary's Road Church Lane to Huddleston Way
- Sawston Hall Crescent Huddleston Way to end
- Sawston Huddleston Way Church Lane to end
- Great Shelford Granhams Road A1301 to speed limit
- Haslingfield Fountains Lane High St to New Rd

A full list of proposed capital maintenance and improvement works for our division and the rest of Cambridgeshire can be found at [DRAFT 5yr CHMP 2025\\_26 to - 2030 31.xlsx](#)

	<p><b>Bus franchise</b></p> <p>The Mayor has now signed into effect a decision to introduce franchising of bus services in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. This would put control of routes, fares and timetables into democratic hands, and enable profit-making routes to subsidise socially needed but less used ones.</p> <p><b>Mobile Libraries and support with SIM cards</b></p> <p>The mobile library has a great range of books for all ages. We also distribute free NHS hearing aid batteries and walking stick ferrules and also sell stamps.</p> <p>Thanks to the National Databank we are now able to issue free SIM cards to anyone over the age of 18 who is on a low income. Come and chat to our staff for more information. Bring your library card or you can sign up on board. Come and see what we have to offer.</p> <p>C3 – 1st Wednesday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Newton, The Green 11.30-11.55am</li> <li>• Thriplow, Middle Street/Shop 12.10-12.35pm</li> <li>• Thriplow, Sheralds Croft Lane 12.40-1.00pm</li> <li>• Gt Chishill, The Church 2.00-2.40pm</li> <li>• Heydon, Fowlmere Road 2.50-3.20pm</li> <li>• Fowlmere, High Street 3.35-4.10pm</li> </ul>
2503/07	<p><b>Report from Babraham Research Campus (BRC) representative</b></p> <p>The 2 recent events held on Campus were well attended and thanks to everyone who came along.</p> <p>The large Sequoia tree has now been felled due to disease. The timber stacks have been removed and mulch resulting from tree works has been laid, including the new hedgerow recently planted on the Forest Garden.</p> <p>A new spray treatment for coppiced trees is being trialled, this is totally harmless and is made from lanolin derived from sheep's wool, it is hoped this will prevent damage caused by deer.</p> <p>Discussions are taking place with the Environment Agency re projects and works to the river, this will hopefully result in a better flow and will include lowering some banks and raising others.</p> <p>A meeting was held with the Neighbourhood Planning group and architect re landscaping blending in with the NP.</p> <p>It was reported that people have been seen fishing in the river, this is only allowed for people who have a fishing permit and rod license.</p>
2503/08	<p><b>Public participation time – 15 minutes allowed</b></p>
2503/09	<p><b>CSET- updates</b></p> <p>Meeting held at Shelford, nothing new resulting from this. Plans have now gone to the Transport Committee. Babraham PC have sent a letter of objection to the plan and backing the Better Busway plan.</p>
2503/10	<p><b>Village Hall- update</b></p> <p>Nothing to report- solicitors to be chased to see what the hold-up is.</p>
2503/11	<p><b>Forest Garden Project. Update</b></p>

	<p>A meeting of the steering Group to be held on the 4<sup>th</sup> April, a question was asked as to what has happened to the information boards that were promised, this will be raised at the meeting.</p> <p>Chris Chapman to propose holding working parties of people on campus interested in helping with the Forest Garden.</p> <p>420 whips of hedgerow have been planted and mulched. More will be coming in November.</p> <p>The purchase and siting of a shipping container was discussed- would electricity be available if sited on the Forest Garden? If not, is there a better place to put it where it might be more secure?</p> <p>The purchase of a ride-on mower and strimmer was then discussed, all in favour of buying a mower for £150 and a petrol strimmer approx. £200.</p>
<b>2503/12</b>	<p><b>Neighbourhood Plan- update</b></p> <p>The draft is now complete, the Local Plan has changed meaning there is a delay to submission.</p> <p>A working group will work alongside Campus working group.</p> <p>Parish Council to send a response to the redevelopment of the Close, The PC fully accept the proposals in principal. SL to draft a response and send round to the Councillors for their approval.</p> <p>The development may include a one way system.</p> <p>A new application for a grant will be submitted in July.</p> <p>A presentation will then be given to the Parish Council in October, followed by a 6 week consultation with the village.</p>
<b>2503/13</b>	<p><b>Updates from last meeting.</b></p> <p>Highways problems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Speed bumps problems This has been reported to the Contractor by Cllr Brian Milnes Clerk to put together timeline of the speedbumps- when installed, cost, contractor used and evidence of when they became loose. This will then be sent to the contractor and if no response, then a Solicitor will be appointed to try to recoup the cost.</li> <li>Renewal of Contract for grass cutting and bin emptying- May 2025- tenders have been asked for. This to be discussed at the next meeting.</li> </ul>
<b>2503/14</b>	<p><b>General Village Matters and new items for discussion:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EV charging points in the village. This will not be perused as too expensive for the village to install.</li> <li>Breakfast at the Church get-together. This will be on the 7<sup>th</sup> June between 10am and 11.30. It is a fundraiser for the Church, PC to donate money for the food. Donations will be asked for at the event and also a raffle will be held to raise more money.</li> </ul> <p><b>FINANCE</b></p>
<b>2503/15</b>	<p><b>Receipts and Transfers (as of 6<sup>th</sup> March 2025)</b></p> <p><b>Cambridge Building Society: Bank Interest £2335.48</b></p>

2503/16	<p><b>Payments (as of 6<sup>th</sup> March 2025)</b></p> <table><tr><td>Clerk</td><td>Salary/Tax/Expenses-</td><td><b>confidential</b></td></tr><tr><td>Hugo Fox</td><td>Website provider</td><td><b>£35.99</b></td></tr><tr><td>Unity Trust bank</td><td>Bank charges</td><td><b>£7.35</b></td></tr><tr><td>Clerk</td><td>Keys cut as spares for noticeboard</td><td><b>£15.00</b></td></tr><tr><td>Starboard</td><td>Accounting software</td><td><b>£398.50</b></td></tr><tr><td>Ionos</td><td>Domain name charge</td><td><b>£19.20</b></td></tr><tr><td>Rob Attwood</td><td>Mower/petrol/oil</td><td><b>£50.00</b></td></tr></table> <p><b>A full list of payments was circulated, approved and signed off at the meeting</b></p>	Clerk	Salary/Tax/Expenses-	<b>confidential</b>	Hugo Fox	Website provider	<b>£35.99</b>	Unity Trust bank	Bank charges	<b>£7.35</b>	Clerk	Keys cut as spares for noticeboard	<b>£15.00</b>	Starboard	Accounting software	<b>£398.50</b>	Ionos	Domain name charge	<b>£19.20</b>	Rob Attwood	Mower/petrol/oil	<b>£50.00</b>	
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2503/17	<p><b>Balances and Bank Reconciliation at 6<sup>th</sup> March 2025</b></p> <table><tr><td>Unity Current A/C balance</td><td>£3660.46</td></tr><tr><td>Unity Savings A/C balance</td><td>£139,453.62</td></tr><tr><td>Cambridge Building Society</td><td>£84,235.61</td></tr><tr><td><b>TOTAL</b></td><td><b>£227,349.69</b></td></tr><tr><td><b>Above total includes Reserves:</b></td><td></td></tr><tr><td><b>Sec 106/ Village Hall</b></td><td>£145.154.72</td></tr><tr><td><b>Public Art</b></td><td>£ 18,207.55</td></tr><tr><td><b>Playground</b></td><td>£25,000.00</td></tr><tr><td><b>Forest Garden</b></td><td>£1778.00</td></tr><tr><td><b>Total Reserved</b></td><td><b>£190,140.27</b></td></tr><tr><td><b>Total remaining for PC</b></td><td><b>£37,209.42</b></td></tr></table> <p><b>PLANNING</b></p>	Unity Current A/C balance	£3660.46	Unity Savings A/C balance	£139,453.62	Cambridge Building Society	£84,235.61	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£227,349.69</b>	<b>Above total includes Reserves:</b>		<b>Sec 106/ Village Hall</b>	£145.154.72	<b>Public Art</b>	£ 18,207.55	<b>Playground</b>	£25,000.00	<b>Forest Garden</b>	£1778.00	<b>Total Reserved</b>	<b>£190,140.27</b>	<b>Total remaining for PC</b>	<b>£37,209.42</b>
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2503/18	Applications received: none																						
2503/19	Planning decisions: none																						
2503/20	Correspondence.																						
2503/21	<p><b>Items for inclusion in the next meeting</b></p> <p>Contract for grass cutting/bin emptying</p> <p><b>Date of next meetings:</b> Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2025 at 7.30pm Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May 6.30pm Annual Meeting of the Parish Council followed by Annual Parish Meeting at 7.30pm</p> <p><b>Part II: Confidential Information</b></p>																						
2503/22	<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>      <b>16<sup>th</sup> March 2025</b> 10 Duxford Road, Hinxton, Saffron Walden, Essex, CB10 1RB 01799 531827</p>																						