

# CALDECOTE PARISH COUNCIL

(South Cambridgeshire District)

## MINUTES

**A meeting of this Council was held in the Village Hall, Caldecote  
On Thursday 3rd March 2022.**

*Members of the public are reminded that copies of reports and supporting documentation for agenda items can be obtained from the Parish Council website, <http://caldecote.gov.uk> or upon request to the Parish Clerk.*

**Present:** Cllr Polly Field (PF, Chairman), Cllr John Barker (JB), Cllr Priya Nair (PN), Cllr Sharon Pedley (SP) and Cllr Nicola Pritchard (NP).

**In Attendance:** Alan Melton (Parish Clerk), Katy Reeves (Deputy Clerk).

There were 3 members of the public present.

- 1. Public open forum** – A resident requested an update on the transfer of a section of land between Dorral Dean and the bridleway that was previously agreed by the council but has been stalled by the discover of a covenant on the land. The resident wishes to be able to maintain the land, including clearing some of the unwanted shrubbery and trees. The Clerk advised that, for other residents in the same position, an official letter has been provided stating that the resident is free to use the land provided that no buildings are erected on the land. It was agreed that that the Clerk will send the resident a copy of the letter for his solicitor to inspect. **Action: Clerk**

Mr P Claridge noted that the current Village Design Statement (VDS) does not cover some key environmental and drainage issues and that the current VDS may expire when the new Local Plan is adopted. Mr Claridge asked whether the Council could investigate options for updating the VDS and offered to help with this work. Mr Claridge recommended that the Parish Council creates a draft environmental policy that sets out the Council's preferences regarding the maintenance of biodiversity. This could be referenced in response to planning applications and later incorporated into an updated VDS. Regarding drainage, Mr Claridge recommended that the margins of safety for flooding considered should be tightened and suggested that the Council may want to employ a drainage engineer to investigate this. JB asked whether the environmental issues are already being considered by SCDC and expressed a desire to avoid duplicating work. It was agreed that Mr Claridge will further explore the possibility of updating the VDS and that the work that is being carried out by SCDC in this area will be investigated

- 2. Apologies for absence** – Apologies were received from Cllr Jack Lang (JL) and Cllr and District Cllr Tumi Hawkins (TH).
- 3. Members' declarations of pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests** – There were no declarations of interests.
- 4. Chairman's Announcements** – There were no announcements.
- 5. Minutes of the last Meeting** – The minutes of the Council meeting held on 3rd February 2022 were approved as a correct record and duly signed by Cllr P Field.
- 6. Actions**
  - Play Equipment – Stage 2** – The Clerk reported that the order for the equipment has been placed.

*Parish Clerk: Alan Melton, 20 St. Martins Road, Chatteris, Cambs PE16 6JF  
Email: [parishclerk@caldecote.gov.uk](mailto:parishclerk@caldecote.gov.uk)*

- **Individuals for Awards** – The Chairman reported that nominations for special awards to be given out at the Platinum Jubilee event have been requested and some nominations have been received.
- **Update on Speed Monitoring** – The Clerk reported that the County Cllr has advised that there is no money available to introduce measures such as speed monitoring/ warning signs but that the Council could consider buying their own. It was agreed that the Clerk will investigate costs and specifications.

**Action: Clerk**

- **Greenways** – update. The Chairman reported that the funding for the Greenways project appears to be being scaled back. The Council will continue to push for an extension to Caldecote.

**7. Report from District Councillor and County Councillor**

District Cllr T Hawkins provided a monthly report (attached).

**8. Planning Applications**

- **22/00500/FUL**: External changes following prior approval application ref. 21/03430/PR103O for change of use of offices (Class B1 (a) to 4no dwelling houses (class C3) (As amended by application ref. 21/03430/NMA). At, Burr Elm Court, Main Street, Caldecote.

It was **RESOLVED** to object to the application on the grounds that it is outside the village development framework.

- **22/00509/S73**: S73 variation of condition 2 (approved plans) of planning permission S/1136/19/FL (Erection of 3no of dwellings and associated development) to correct errors made in approved plans and make minor amendments.

The application was noted.

**9. Financial Reports –**

- **Summary of receipts and payments.** A report on the on current budget vs. expenditure dated 25th February 2022 was received and approved.

- **Bank Reconciliation.** The bank reconciliation dated 25<sup>th</sup> February 2022 was received and approved.

- **Accounts for payment.** The schedule of payments (attached) was received. It was **RESOLVED** that the payment of bills be approved.

**10. The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee** – The Chairman reported that the organisers of the Platinum Jubilee event are requesting a grant of £1000 towards the purchase/hire of equipment, services, licenses and insurance. It was agreed that Cllr P Field and Cllr N Pritchard, who are part of the organizing committee, should be given authority to make purchases up to a total of £1000 and invoices will be paid or reimbursed by the Council.

**11. Dog Fouling – Solutions?** Councillors considered the advantages and disadvantages of several proposed solutions to the problem of dog fouling in the village. It was agreed that the Council will open a consultation via the website, facebook page and noticeboards, with a view to taking steps to ban dogs from using the recreation ground.

**12. Emergency Planning Working Group** – It was agreed that Cllrs J. Barker, N. Pritchard, S. Pedley, T. Hawkins and P. Nair will form a Working Party to update the Emergency Plan.

13. **Cricket Club – Fees and Charges.** The cricket club have reported that some external clubs have agreed to pay an increased fee of £125 for hire of the cricket pitch. Other teams, including the County Cricket teams are unwilling to pay this price and have therefore not yet arranged any matches. It was agreed that the fees will be raised to £125 for use of the pitch and changing rooms (with an additional £25 for use of the kitchen and meeting room). The yearly charge for Hardwick and Caldecote cricket team has not yet been agreed.
14. **Covid 19 – End of Restrictions.** The Clerk advised that all restrictions have now been ended but that NALC/ CAPALC continue to lobby for zoom/ hybrid meetings to be allowed.
15. **CAPALC – Membership.** It was **RESOLVED** that the Council’s membership of CAPALC be renewed.
16. **Village Design Statement –** This was covered under item 1.
17. **Land at 115, Highfields Road, Caldecote –** *In order for this item to be discussed, the Chairman proposed a suspension of Standing Orders.* The Clerk reported that Councillors had become aware that a strip of land used as a footpath will shortly be being put up for sale via auction. The Clerk has spoken to the estate agent and confirmed the conditions by which that the Council could participate in the auction if they chose to do so. Having considered the likely sale price of the land and the funds available to the Council, it was **RESOLVED** that the Council will not attempt to purchase the land. Proposed JB, seconded PF.
18. **Correspondence –** The Clerk reported that he has received correspondence asking whether the Council would be prepared to sign a letter to Grant Schapps, via Anthony Browne, MP, calling for the government to request that EWR publish a business case for the Oxford-Cambridge line. It was agreed that the Council will sign the letter
19. **Dates and times of the next meeting –** Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2022, at 7.00pm in the Village Hall

**The Meeting Closed at 9 pm**

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

**SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS:** to consider and approve the schedule of payments. \* = cost incurred as a result of vandalism.

Key to Frequency (Freq) codes:

**O** = 'one-off' or intermittent regular payment with no set frequency.

**T** = Termly (usually associated with youth club payments which get invoiced on a termly basis) **A** = Annually. **M** = Monthly. **Q** = Quarterly.  $\frac{1}{2}$  = Half-Yearly.

**Payments made since last meeting that require Council approval**

Payment date	Voucher #	Amount	To	For	Budget Code	Freq
07/02/22	186	200.00	Hardwick and Caldecote Cricket Club	Grant towards defibrillator	34	O
08/02/22	198	92.64	BT	Pavilion broadband	38	M
15/02/22	189	10.00	Nicola Pritchard	Community support phone	34	M
16/02/22	190	161.06	E-on	Cabin electricity	45	M
16/02/22	191	106.29	British Gas	Pavilion electricity	36	M
22/02/22	192	68.99	Caldecote Village Institute	Village Hall Hire	19	O
22/02/22	193	34605.11	Playdale	Play equipment 50% deposit	49	O
22/01/22	194	350.54	HMRC	PAYE Jan 2022	33	M
22/01/22	195-197	1460.38	Staff salaries	Salaries Feb 2022	27,28,29	M

**New payments yet to be made requiring Council approval**

Amount	To	For	Budget Code	Freq
19.50	Katy Reeves	Expenses Feb 22	6	M
229.70	Alan Melton	Expenses Feb 22	5	M
2760.00	Uniplumb	Urinal removal and fitting	39	O
520.91	CAPALC	Annual membership	23	A
243.37	MPLC	Film licence	16	A
112.00	R L Hartwell	Pavilion cleaning	38	O

**South Cambridgeshire District Council – Caldecote Ward**  
(comprises the Parishes of Caldecote, Childerley, Kingston, Bourn, Longstowe & Little Gransden)

**Councillor's Monthly Report – March 2022**

This report of previous month events is for all the Ward, so please be aware that some of the content may not be relevant to your particular Parish.

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**General**

Please contact me with comments, questions, problems, reports, suggestions or complaints to do with SCDC services. These are housing need, housing repairs for council tenants, planning, benefits, council tax, bin collection, environmental health issues etc. Don't fight on your own. I am available to help you to get the best outcome possible for your situation.

Check out articles on my facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/itsCouncillorTumi> and my blog <http://www.TumiHawkins.org.uk>. What I post on there is my view and not LibDem or South Cambs official policy unless I state that it is.

**Planning Training for Parish Councils**

SCDC has arranged a number of planning training sessions for Parish Councils. I want to thank all those that attended the trainings, first on Drainage and the second on How Planning Works. The two sessions have been recorded and those recordings will be made available in due course. We are working on putting together a webpage for information aimed at Parish Councils.

The quarterly session on Area Parish Planning Meetings is also currently taking place, and the one for Area 3 for villages in Caldecote Ward is on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2022. Please send representatives as there will be presentations from all parts of the planning service. There is a specific session on the newly adopted Biodiversity SPD too!

**Authority Monitoring Report (AMR)**

The Government requires councils to publish the Authority Monitoring Report every year to state how well we are doing in terms of number of homes delivered compared with the target in our adopted local plans.

For those that don't know, the adopted Local Plans 2018 for both councils set a housing requirement of 33,500 homes to be built between 2011 and 2031 for Greater Cambridge. This results in an average housing delivery rate of 1,675 dwellings a year for Greater Cambridge. I am happy to report that for 2020-21 we have not just met that target, we have exceeded it with 1752 net additional houses built of which 1,335 are in South Cambridgeshire, and 417 in Cambridge. Moreover, 362 of these homes were 'Affordable Homes' of which 311 are in South Cambridgeshire, and 51 in Cambridge.

One thing to note is that five year land supply sites have contributed 1332 to the total sites being built out in South Cambridgeshire-these were permissions granted prior to Sept 2018 as departure to the development plan when the previous Conservative administration did not have an adopted local plan in place and the district did not have five year housing land supply. For Caldecote, the Linden and Balfour Beatty developments are part of this figure.

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## Water Resources East (WRE) – Informal Consultation

As I reported last month, WRE launched an informal consultation on its Water Resources Management Plan (WRMP). That consultation closed on February 28. I am pleased to report that the Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service submitted a response to this consultation on behalf

*District Councillor Tumi*

of both South Cambs and Cambridge City. You will find that response on the south cambs website at <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/councils-respond-to-water-resources-east-s-new-plan-for-watermanagement-over-50-years/>. In principle, we support the principle of building a Fens Reservoir to provide water, but emphasised that as this is not likely to happen until about 2035, interim measures must be brought forward before that. We also suggested that water use should be reduced to 80 litres/person/day, which is better than current building regs. I was interviewed by That's TV on Friday about this on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> February.

### Zero Carbon Events

The Zero Carbon two weeks event is going well. This is the second week, and I was privileged to give the welcome speech to the attendees of Planning for Climate Change webinar on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> March afternoon. There is a lot of great work going on by our Planning Service on this issue. The recording of the webinar will be available shortly, so check out the website at <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/climate-emergency-and-nature/zero-carbon-communities/zero-carboncommunities-events/> for more information and recordings.

### Community Engagement Forums for 2022

Please remember that the forums for the A428 corridor is as shown below. Be there.

- Wednesday 9 March, 6pm onwards - A428 Cluster: Bourn Airfield
- <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/community-safety-and-health/community-forums/a428development-cluster-bourn-airfield/>
- <https://www.facebook.com/events/226636826346319/>
- Wednesday 9 March, 6pm onwards - A428 Cluster: Cambourne
- <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/community-safety-and-health/community-forums/a428development-cluster-cambourne/>
- <https://www.facebook.com/events/7798290350196695/>

For information on forums, email the Communities Team [duties.communities@scambs.gov.uk](mailto:duties.communities@scambs.gov.uk) or call 01954 713 070. The Forums webpage is at <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/community-safety-andhealth/community-forums/>

### Business Support

South Cambs is offering a series of free-to-attend webinars for local businesses. The following are scheduled for this month:

- **Making your business greener** *Thursday 24 February, 1pm to 2pm*

Climate change is one of the greatest challenges facing the planet. Come and hear how your business can reduce its carbon use and operate more sustainably. This case-study based webinar will feature a panel including speakers from Green Blue You, PECT and Greater Cambridge Shared Waste.

To find out more and to register, go to the business webpage at <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/business/business-networking-and-events/>

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### **Covid Business Support Grants**

South Cambridgeshire businesses can now apply for the latest COVID Government support grants via the District Council. Applications opened Monday 17 January for the Omicron Hospitality and Leisure Grant (OHLG) for up to £6,000 and the Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG). These grants are primarily aimed at those businesses in the hospitality, leisure and accommodation sectors. Applications should be made by 18 February. Final payments will be made by 31 March 2022. Full eligibility criteria, and online application forms, can be found on South Cambridgeshire District Council's website <https://www.scams.gov.uk/business/grants-and-funding>. Don't delay, send in your applications as allocation is on first come first served basis.

### Civil Parking Enforcement

I have previously reported that South Cambs District Council and the County Council were working together to introducing civil parking enforcement. This will see responsibilities for dealing with illegal parking shift from Cambridgeshire Police to Cambridgeshire County Council. This will mean drivers parking illegally, such as on double yellow lines, could be issued a ticket by Civil Enforcement Officers and ordered to pay a penalty charge.

The County Council will prepare an application to the Secretary of State for a Special Enforcement Area, via the Department for Transport, to introduce the scheme. Subject to the approval of this application, it is expected that civil parking enforcement could begin in South Cambridgeshire in the autumn of next year.

In South Cambridgeshire, the upfront costs of introducing civil parking enforcement will be funded by the Greater Cambridge Partnership, including a full review of road lines and signs. They will also cover any financial deficit of the scheme for the first five years and all income that is generated by fines will be used to help pay for the costs of running the scheme.

### Planning Update – Biodiversity SPD -Focussing on Nature

SCDC has just published its newly adopted Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) which you can see at <https://www.greatercambridgeplanning.org/media/2476/gcsp-biodiversity-spdfeb-2022.pdf>. I was pleased to present this to the Full Cabinet meeting so it could be agreed. You will recall that Biodiversity and Green Spaces is one of the four key themes of the emerging Local Plan, and it is important that we start to encourage developers to focus on increasing biodiversity in new developments. The SPD supports the Doubling Nature Strategy that we published last year. It details how all new development must protect, preserve and enhance nature and encourages parish councils to develop their own nature recovery plans.

### Budgeting for Climate Change

Further to the above, I am pleased to tell you that South Cambridgeshire District Council is allocating £6.83m of its £70m total spend to its Zero Carbon Strategy and Action Plan. The measures range from a solar farm to power bin lorries - to the completion of a massive programme to install energy-efficient LEDs in street lights all of which contributes to the ambition to halve carbon emissions locally by 2030 - and reduce them to zero by 2050. Money will also go towards maintaining the 275km (171 miles) network of watercourses in the district, and financial support of parish councils and community groups to reduce their carbon footprint. More electric vehicle charging points would also be installed.

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## South Cambs DC Budget for 2022/23

SCDC has approved its budget for next year and set its Council Tax charge from April 2022. Continuing to have one of the lowest Council Tax charges in the country, councillors agreed to raise it by 10 pence a week or £5 a year for a Band D property to enable the Council to continue to transform council services and deliver £230,000 of savings every year.

This coming year it will cost over £80 million to run South Cambridgeshire District and Council Tax will bring in just £10.7 million. Business Rates is expected to bring in £11.6 million. Only £2million is expected in government grants. Investments account for over £5 million in income. Our investments include Ermine Street (our wholly owned housing company providing private rented accommodation, such as houses in multiple occupation for single people), the Cambridge Ice Rink and even Cambourne Youth Centre. The council is also supporting business start-ups and the development of tech industries by investing in the Cambridge Science Park which is in South Cambridgeshire.

We also receive income from our fees and charges and contributions from fellow councils for the cost of running the shared planning and waste services. But unlike many other Councils we do not have income from car parks or civic amenities such as a sports centre. Council housing stock, is now growing again and with 189 new council homes having been built over the past three years it now stands at over 5,500. However, we have to fund this mainly from council rents. £7 million will be spent on refurbishing council houses to reduce tenants' heating bills.

We appreciate that in these difficult times those on lower incomes are struggling which is why we have more officers advising those finding themselves in financial difficult and we also pay Citizens Advice £85,000 a year to help our residents. Apart from Housing Benefit we also have a Local Council Tax Support Scheme and discretionary support for Council Tax. As a result of this support, last year we were the best in the country for collecting Council Tax and in the top ten for the collection of Business Rates.

We are one of a few councils in the country to have set a balanced budget for the coming financial year with a small surplus going into reserves to off-set possibly deficits in the future.

## Council Tenancy - Fixed Term Tenancies

The Government has revoked the legislation that limits council to issuing 10-year fixed term tenancies to council house tenants because it meant that council house residents faced uncertainty about their futures once their lease expired. The fixed term tenancies that South Cambs had to issue previously are now up for renewal and will be replaced with secure tenancies.

## Street Trading Policy

Are you a street trader or interested in doing some street trading? Then you might find this information useful. SCDC has approved a new street trading policy to ensure local businesses are supported whilst providing residents with a varied choice of goods and services. All streets in the District will now come under its remit, with the exception of the A11 and A14 and any area of land which is in direct ownership and control of the County, District or Parish Councils. Read the details at <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/new-street-trading-policy-approved-for-all-southcambridgeshire-streets/>

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## Health and Wellbeing

The Action for Happiness theme for this month is **Friendly February**. The calendar is at <https://www.actionforhappiness.org/march>. This month's focus is "Let's pause, breathe and notice, so we can respond more mindfully".

## Local Issues

**Caldecote – Linden Homes 21/02265/FUL** – The application to build 74 homes on Phase 2 of the Angel's Park was refused by Planning Committee in the February meeting. The site is outside the village framework, so contrary to current adopted planning policies. The reason it got planning permission in the first place does not exist anymore. There were other reasons for the refusal including the character and design. You can watch the recording of the meeting at <https://scams.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?MIId=9183&x=1>

## Casework

Irrespective of the current Covid19 lockdown, please do feel free to contact me with comments, questions, problems, reports, suggestions or complaints to do with SCDC services. I will help as best I can.

You will find the current and past reports at <https://tumihawkins.org.uk/2021-22-monthly-reports/>. Feel free to read, share and/or download.

Please stay safe. The maxim **Hands – Face – Space - Fresh Air** is still very much the rule.

*Tumi*

Tumi Hawkins  
02 March 2022

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