

MINUTES OF ICKLETON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held in the Gordon Woolhouse Meeting Room, Ickleton Village Hall, Frogge Street, Ickleton. CB10 1SH.

Wednesday 15th January 2025 starting at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr Lucy Davidson, Cllr John Gidley, Cllr Emily Gittins, Cllr P Hamilton, Cllr Tim Pavelin, Cllr Terry Sadler (Chair) and Cllr P Wombwell (arrived at 8.10pm).

In attendance: Barbara Benn (Clerk) and two members of the public.

In the absence of the Chair and Vice Chair it was proposed by Cllr J Gidley and seconded by Cllr L Davidson that Cllr T Sadler would chair the meeting.

Open

155/24-25 Open Forum for Public Participation – 15 minutes will be made available for members of the public to address the council. A member of the public raised concerns about the left hand turn from New Road, Hinxton onto the A1301 as the new kerb is impinging exit.

Formalities

156/24-25 Apologies for absence. Apologies for absence were received and accepted for personal reasons from Cllr S Heaney and Cllr S Cheney. Cllr P Wombwell gave advance notice that he would be late and arrived at 8.10pm.

157/24-25 Councillors' Declarations of Interest. Cllr Pavelin declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 162 ii and 170 i.

158/24-25 To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 11th December 2024. It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 11th December 2024 be approved and signed as a true and accurate record.

Agenda

159/24-25 Reports from South Cambs District (SCDCllrs) and Cambridge County Councillors (CCCllrs). This agenda item was moved to later in the meeting.

Council

Action

160/24-25 Policy and procedures

- i. Consider if the Parish Council wish to respond as a Council body to the Government Consultation: 'Strengthening the Standards and Conduct Framework for Local Authorities in England'. Closes 26th February 2025. It was resolved that the Parish Council did not wish to respond to this consultation.

161/24-25 Projects and initiatives

- i. Cemetery extension update including agreeing next steps to be taken. The Green Spaces grant team have proposed areas where they can assist with labour and materials. It was agreed to formalise this at the next meeting.
- ii. Approve area of land to be designated as a burial area within the new meadow. It was resolved that the Parish Council approve the proposed designated area.
- iii. Formally agree to proceed with the purchase of the land including the agreed area of land which will be restricted for use as a cemetery. It was resolved that the purchase, and proposed burial area, is formally agreed.

SCDCllr P McDonald arrived at 7.41pm.

It was agreed to take item 159/24-25 at this point in the meeting. An update was received from Cllr McDonald. See Appendix A. The discharge of sewage in Ickleton was also discussed and an update received on the proposed actions by Anglian Water to remedy the issue. It was agreed that Cllrs Gidley and Sadler would meet with Anglian Water on 16th January when they visit the pumping station and the Parish Council would continue to press for a speedy resolution. Cllr Gidley raised the issue of the County Council budget shortfall and asked where savings could be made. Cllr Sadler raised resident and Councillor concerns in relation to the left turn from New Road, Hinxton onto the A1301 and the proximity of the junction to the new roundabout. A road safety audit, as a matter of priority, was requested. Cllr McDonald would speak with the relevant County Highways Officer. This will also be raised at the next Community Liaison Meeting with Urban&Civic. **Cllrs Gidley &**

Sadler

- iv. Consider access arrangements to the new cemetery and meadow area.

Cllr P Wombwell arrived at 8.10pm during discussion of this item.

It was resolved that Cllr Pavelin would contact the resident who currently maintains the bridleway to let them know about the land purchase and ask about current access arrangements. **Cllr Pavelin**

- v. Consider latest quotation and receive any updates on domain change, email migration and Microsoft upgrade. It was resolved that this item be moved to the February meeting.
- vi. Update on successful Shared Prosperity Fund application for meadow area. Discussed at agenda item 161 i.

162/24-25 Tax and finance

- i. To note receipts from:
VAT reclaim £788.11
Salvation Army £2.79
- ii. To approve payment of January 2025 accounts:
T Pavelin, invoice 39, bin emptying, £100.00. Cllr Pavelin abstained from consideration of this item.
Clerk's salary (confidential)
E&E Plumridge, Icene printing Dec 24, INV-4218 £184.00
E&E Plumridge, Icene printing Jan 25, INV-4302, £131.00
Tanner & Hall, 220623-1, Chapel roof repairs, £900.00
ACRE, membership fee 2025, £72.00
Bank charge £6.00. DD 31st January 2025
nPower, IN12257775, Electricity 1.10.24 to 31.12.24, £109.14, DD 18.01.24
It was resolved that the payments listed above be approved and paid. **Clerk**
- iii. Bank reconciliation. Current account £14,382.72, Instant Access £41,652.48. Total £56,035.20. It was resolved that the bank reconciliation for December 2024 is approved and signed.
- iv. Equals cash card reconciliation. Balance £649.20. It was resolved that the Equals card reconciliation for December 2024 is approved and signed.
- v. Budget review to December 2024. Documents circulated prior to meeting and review noted.
- vi. VAT126 reclaim quarter 3. Documents circulated prior to meeting and noted.
- vii. Current account Direct Debit review. Reviewed and approved.
- viii. To agree and appoint the Internal Auditor for 2024-25. It was resolved that CAPALC would be appointed as the IA for 24-25. **Clerk**
- ix. To consider and agree proposed virements:
£2,000 unspent LHI contribution to cemetery costs for essential tree works undertaken. It was resolved that the proposed virement be made. **Clerk**
£400 of the open spaces budget to chapel repairs. It was resolved that the proposed virement be made. **Clerk**
£600 of the open spaces budget to cemetery for tree works. It was resolved that the proposed virement be made. **Clerk**

163/24-25 Meetings and decision making

- i. Agree date for Annual Parish Meeting. It was resolved that the Clerk check the availability of the meeting room on the 7th May at 7pm. **Clerk**
- ii. Agree budget for Annual Parish Meeting. It was resolved that the Council in accordance with its powers under sections 137 and 139 of the Local Government Act 1972, should incur the following expenditure which, in the opinion of the Council, is in the interests of the area or its inhabitants and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure a budget maximum of £200 was approved. **Cllr Hamilton**

164/24-25 Collaborations and affiliations

- i. Decide if the Parish Council wish to comment on the Stapleford & Great Shelford Neighbourhood Plan before it is considered by an examiner and can proceed towards a referendum. Comments by 5pm on Wednesday 12 February 2025. The Parish Council resolved not to comment on the plan.

Community

165/24-25 Health and Safety

- i. Defibrillator check (Cllr Pavelin). Checked 15th January 2025 and in full working order.

- 166/24-25** Services and amenities
- i. Update on responses received concerning battery back up at the Coploe Road mast site. No further responses have been received. SCDC P McDonald will contact the offices of Pippa Heylings MP.
- 167/24-25** Churchyard and cemetery
- i. Update on removal of ivy from churchyard wall. No update. **Clerk**
- 168/24-25** Groups and Societies
- i. Update on purchase of the Ickleton Lion Public House and Council liaison with the committee. An update was received. The Parish Council were asked to consider a letter of support for a Community Café which would be based in the Ickleton Lion. The Parish Council agreed to write a letter of support. **Cllr Davidson & Cllr Sadler**
- Environment**
- 169/24-25** District development
- i. Wellcome Genome Campus update. No update. Issues with A1301 junction discussed elsewhere on the agenda.
 - ii. Boro Farm update. No update.
 - iii. To note that the Draft Uttlesford Local Plan was submitted to the Secretary of State for Housing on 18th December 2024. Noted.
 - iv. To consider if the Parish Council wish to comment on the Harston Neighbourhood Plan before it is considered by an Independent Examiner and can proceed towards a referendum. It was resolved that the Parish Council did not wish to comment on the plan.
- 170/24-25** Land and premises
- Planning information from South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC)*
- i. To consider any comments to be returned to SCDC relating to planning applications:
24/04583/HFUL Proposal: Single storey side and rear extension. Site address: 34 Butchers Hill. Extension for comment granted to 17th January 2025. It was resolved that the Parish Council support this application. Cllr Pavelin abstained from consideration of this item. **Clerk**
 Cllr P Wombwell declared a personal and pecuniary interest on the following agenda item and left the room whilst it was considered.
25/00050/PRIOR Prior Approval. Proposal: Change of Use of Buildings on Agricultural Units and former Agricultural Buildings to 1 No. Dwellinghouse (Class C3). Site address: Existing Barn at Rectory Farm. Consultation closes 30th January. It was resolved to support this application. **Clerk**
 Cllr Wombwell returned to the meeting.
 - ii. To note SCDC planning decisions:
24/1363/TTCA, Site: 14 Frogge Street. Proposal: Rowan Tree - Remove, grind out the stump and replace it with a new tree. Status: No Objection. Noted.
 - iii. Consider next steps to be taken in relation to the replacement of the swings and the repair, removal or replacement of the zip wire. A revised quote of £5,015.34 has been received from ESP for the replacement of the swing sets. It was resolved to proceed with this and instruct ESP. **Clerk**
 It was noted that a grant application has been made to the Community Fund for funding towards replacement of equipment. The Parish Council is considering other fundraising ideas for possible repairs or replacement of equipment. It was resolved that Councillors would revisit the report concerning the zip wire and discuss this at the next meeting. It was also agreed to seek community feedback. **Cllr Gittins**
 - iv. Consider quotation received for skate park repairs and agree any actions. It was resolved that the Parish Council seek community feedback on whether the skate park should be repaired or removed. Fundraising would be required for either option. **Cllr Gittins**
 - v. Consider matters raised in resident's email concerning the wildflower area on the recreation ground and agree response. The matters raised were discussed and it was agreed the Clerk would respond by email. **Clerk**
 - vi. Update on wildflower area and agree next steps. A local company have been approached to see if they would be willing to fund the seeds for the wildflower area, should it proceed. **Cllr Wombwell**

- vii. Update on application for recognition of Right of Way through pub car park. It was resolved that Cllr Sadler would put Cambs County Council in direct contact with the Chair of Ickleton Community Pub Ltd. **Cllr Sadler**
- viii. Consider and approve invitation letter for grass cutting and maintenance contract 25-26. It was resolved that the letter be approved and issued by the Clerk. **Clerk**
- 171/24-25** Water and sewerage
- i. Consider responses received from Anglian Water concerning sewerage system and agree any next steps. Update received earlier in the agenda.
- 172/24-25** Housing
- i. Update on the responses relating to the provision of rented housing in Ickleton and any actions to be taken in relation to this. An update was received and it was agreed to invite Cambridgeshire ACRE to talk to the Parish Council at the March meeting. **Clerk**
- 173/24-25** Roads and Highways
- i. Consider whether any actions should be taken concerning the new junction onto the A1301 from Hinxton. Discussed earlier in the agenda.
- ii. Update on submission of LHI funding bid 2025/26 for build out at foot of Butchers Hill. A submission has been made and acknowledgement of submission is awaited.
- iii. Request for support from Ickleton Community Speedwatch Team for their bid for funding for a 2nd Mobile Vehicle Activated Sign. The Parish Council resolved to support this bid. **Cllr Sadler**
- 174/24-25** Action list update and Councillor's reports. All items covered elsewhere on the agenda.
- 175/24-25** Matters for Further Discussion. This item is subject to the discretion of the Chair and includes matters raised by Councillors with a view to being an item on the next agenda. Please note that no decisions can be lawfully made under this item. Cllr Wombwell raised an enquiry concerning the electricity invoice.
- 176/24-25** **Date and time of next Parish Council meeting: Wednesday 19th February 2025 at 7.30pm**

The meeting closed at 9.50pm.

Signed: S Heaney

Dated: 19th February 2025

Appendix A

Parish Council Report January 2025

South Cambs Council

Severe Weather Emergency Provision (SWEP)

Under our SWEP, we are able to accommodate those who would not usually be accommodated in temporary accommodation. We can support you during periods of prolonged cold, damp or windy weather during the months of November to March.

Anyone in South Cambridgeshire who needs to access this service should contact us by one of the following methods to speak with our Housing Advice and Homelessness Team:

- email: housingadvice@scambs.gov.uk
- call: [01954 713 000](tel:01954713000)
- emergency out of hours telephone: [01253 501 117](tel:01253501117)

Frozen green waste bins

At this time of year there is a risk that the contents of green bins can freeze and stick to the inside, preventing the bins from being emptied properly. The council's web pages on bins and recycling contain some advice on how to minimise the risk of your bin freezing. Please circulate this and keep residents informed to help minimise this frustrating problem. In January and February the green bins will be emptied once a month (on 7 January and 4 February). From the beginning of March, they will be emptied fortnightly again.

<https://www.scambs.gov.uk/recycling-and-bins/our-policies-and-what-happens-to-your-recycling-and-waste>

Assets of Community Value

The council maintains a list of Assets of Community Value. These are buildings or land which further the social wellbeing or social interests of the local community, have done so in the recent past, or have the potential to do so in the near future. The current register includes Chequers at Pampisford, Ickleton Lion. Parish Councils and other community groups are encouraged to nominate candidates for listing where appropriate to help protect these key facilities from being lost to the community.

Council Tax increase for vacant properties

From April 2026, Council Tax will be doubled on long-term vacant properties in South Cambridgeshire as an incentive to bring the estimated 2600 empty properties in the district into use. Exemptions exist for properties that are on the market, subject to probate, or are under renovation. This approach has been used successfully by other councils to bring properties back into use and is expected to help address the high demand for housing in the district. It is estimated that the change will generate an additional £100,000 a year in income for South Cambridgeshire which will help support vital frontline services.

Help for people working with health problems

The District Council has worked in partnership with neighbouring councils to launch a free programme called WorkWell, offering help to anyone struggling to find or keep a job due to health problems. This is a valuable initiative that seeks to improve the lives of those affected, to work with the wider community to understand and overcome the barriers involved, and to help boost our local economy.

Government consultation on Right to Buy On 20 November the government launched a consultation seeking views on how the Right to Buy should be reformed to deliver a fairer and more sustainable scheme. The consultation closes on 15 January 2025.

Cambs County Council

County Council Budget 2025/26

I've deliberately focused on the 2025/26 budget as this is the key issue right now.

- The county council has shared its proposals to continue delivering its vision of a creating a greener, fairer and more caring Cambridgeshire. Part of these proposals will identify the Council's priorities for where to spend over £1 billion to deliver services and support for people and communities across the county. Priorities included with the draft Business Plan and Budget are:
- Investing £21 million into the county's 4,500 miles of road network, footpaths, cycleways, and drainage systems in 2025-26, with a further £20 million being invested in 2026-27.
- Investing £20 million over the next 3 years to support providers of adult social care services to pay care workers the Real Living Wage, helping to recruit and retain people to deliver these essential services.
- Investing £6.8 million in low carbon heating for schools and council buildings and £8.7 million being invested to deliver enhanced and upgraded household waste recycling centres in Milton and March.
- However, rising demand for the services we provide, along with the costs of those services also rising, continues to impact the county council's available funding, just as is the case with many other local authorities. That means we also must continue to make difficult choices about where we spend and where we make savings.
- This means we have a budget gap of £34.2 million in 2025-26 which needs to be closed.

- As part of the report to be discussed by councillors, this includes a proposed council tax increase of 4.99% for 2025-26. This increase, if approved, would generate around £20 million in additional funding, not only helping the council to balance the books and set a legal budget, but more importantly, meaning we can commit to:
- continuing the record level of investment in the county's highway and cycleway network that we started last year.
- ensuring that adult care services can continue to support and protect vulnerable adults by investing over £30 million to meet rising demand and costs and supporting the social care workforce.
- funding almost £0.8 Billion investment in capital expenditure to build vital schools, investing in care and community facilities, including libraries, and continue to deliver our ambitious net zero target.
- provide £2.5m to maintain holiday school vouchers for those most in need.
- sustaining home to school transport for children in education right across the county by a further £4.7 million in additional funding to help meet rising demands and costs.
- helping to provide extra capacity to support children and young people in care and children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).
- In our pre-budget engagement exercise, just over 50% of respondents supported an increase in Council Tax of up to 4.99% to help maintain or improve essential services.
- In reports, published for the Strategy, Resources and Performance committee, councillors considered:
- Progress to date and key investment areas for 2025/26 aligned to the council's recently updated and approved Strategic Framework – setting out how the authority will deliver its vision of a creating greener, fairer and more caring Cambridgeshire through its seven ambitions and responding to the needs of residents gathered through its annual Quality of Life Survey.
- The proposed council tax increase of 4.99% and what this additional funding will mean in terms of helping to meet some of our increased costs, as well as additional investment in priority areas.
- The council's long-term approach to changing the way it operates so that it can improve efficiency, value for money and productivity. This means getting the basics right and innovating the way services are delivered so the council can maximise the value of every pound it spends. This work includes saving £1.5m from rationalising office accommodation, and £0.5m from making greater use of technology.
- Have your say - [complete our consultation survey](#).

Happy New Year to you All

Peter McDonald Jan 5th 2025