



MINUTES OF ICKLETON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

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

Wednesday 18th March 2026 starting at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr P Hamilton, Cllr S Heaney, Cllr John Gidley, Cllr Tim Pavelin and Cllr Terry Sadler (arrived at 8.15pm).

In attendance: Barbara Benn (Clerk) and one member of the public.

Open

202/25-26 Open Forum for Public Participation – 15 minutes will be made available for members of the public to address the council.

Formalities

203/25-26 Apologies for absence. Apologies were received and accepted for personal reasons from Cllr Peter Wombwell, Cllr Davidson and Cllr Cheney. Cllr Sadler advised that he would arrive at 8.15pm.

204/25-26 Councillors' Declarations of Interest. Cllr Pavelin declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 208/25-26 iii.

205/25-26 To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 18th February 2026. It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 18th February 2026 be approved and signed as a true and accurate record.

Agenda

206/25-26 Reports from South Cambs District (SCDCllrs) and Cambridge County Councillors (CCClrs). See **appendix A**.

Council

207/25-26 Projects and initiatives

i. Cemetery extension update. Confirmation that exchange and completion of the land purchase took place on 3rd March 2026. Consider article for Icene to confirm the purchase. It was resolved that Cllr Cheney would prepare a short article for the April edition of Icene.

ii. Update on website move. It was resolved that Cllr Heaney would get three updated quotations for the website move.

208/25-26 Tax and finance

i. To note receipts from:

Icene advertising £120.00

Cemetery fees £625.00

Equals card balance transfer £494.54

ii. To approve payment of March 2026 accounts:

Land purchase and associated fees £28,082.92 (paid 25th February 2026)

Clerk's salary (confidential)

HMRC payment £142.80

E&E Plumridge £215.00

CAPALC, 5838, 2026-237 membership fees, £428.37

Red Shoes, 17961, payroll services, £52.20

Bank charge £7.00 DD to be taken 31st March 2026.

It was resolved that the payments listed above be approved and paid.

The Clerk advised that the Equals Card balance transfer incurred a charge of £10.00.

- iii. To approve payment of March invoice from T Pavelin, bin emptying, No.53 £80. Cllr Pavelin abstained from comment on this item. It was resolved the payment be approved and paid.
- iv. Bank reconciliation. Current account £22,534.55, Instant access account £15,166.42 Total £37,700.97. It was resolved that the bank reconciliation for February 2026 is approved and signed.
- v. Equals cash card reconciliation. Balance £504.54. It was resolved that the Equals card reconciliation for February 2026 is approved and signed. The Clerk advised that, following a transfer to the PC bank account, the Equals card balance is now zero.
- vi. Decide budget for Annual Parish Meeting refreshments. Decide if this is to be funded from s.137 funds. It was resolved that the Parish Council would budget £100. 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 above 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.

209/25-26 Organisation and roles

- i. Consider Clerk's request for annual leave 29th June to 3rd July 2026 and 23rd to 30th September 2026. It was resolved to approve this request.
- ii. Consider clerk's request to attend CAPALC training for understanding elections. £35.00. It was resolved that the Clerk can attend this training.

210/25-26 Membership and elections

- i. Parish Council election candidate nomination forms to be returned by 4pm on the 9th April 2026.
- ii. Nomination papers for bulk submission by the Clerk to be received by the Clerk no later than 5pm on 31st March 2026. This was discussed and noted.

211/25-26 Safety and risk management

- i. Ickleton PC Emergency Plan review. The Emergency Plan was reviewed and discussed with minor changes to wording agreed. The Emergency Plan was approved for publication. Cllr Sadler arrived during the discussion.
- ii. Asset register review. The Asset Register was reviewed and approved for publication.
- iii. Asset Management Plan review. The Asset Management Plan was reviewed and approved for publication.

212/25-26 Collaborations and affiliations

- i. Consider if the Parish Council wish to respond to the Community Infrastructure Levy Consultation. Closes 29th March 2026. It was resolved the Parish Council did not wish to comment.
- ii. Consider if the Parish Council wish to respond to the open consultation (closes April 1st) on establishing a Development Corporation in Greater Cambridge. It was resolved that Cllr Sadler would respond on the Parish Council's behalf with the Council's objection to the establishment of a Development Corporation.

Community

213/25-26 Health and Safety

- i. Defibrillator check (Cllr Pavelin). Checked 18th March 2026 and in full working order.

214/25-26 Churchyard and cemetery

- i. Discuss actions in respect of chapel repairs which are required. Councillors resolved that the Clerk would contact a local contractor to arrange a quotation for the repairs.
- ii. Update on permission for table top tomb repairs. It was resolved that the Clerk would contact the PCC for an update on permissions.

Environment

215/25-26 Land and premises

- i. To note SCDC planning decisions:
25/05030/PRIOR Site: The Heath Barn Rectory Farm Grange Road. Proposal: Change of Use and conversion of Buildings on Agricultural Units and former Agricultural Buildings to 2 No. 3 bed Dwellinghouses (Class C3). Status: Prior Approval Refused
26/0091/TTCA Site: 32 Brookhampton Street. Proposal: 2 x Magnolia trees - Reduce height by 3 metres - Reduce lateral branches by 1.5 metres 2 x Horse Chestnut trees - Crown lift on garden side to 5 metres 1 x Cotinus (smoke bush) - Reduce branch growing in front of pedestrian gate by 4 metres 26 x Conifer trees - Reduce height by 4 metres, leaving the trees at 3 metres high - Cut back branches overhanging the boundary at the back to the boundary line. Status: No Objection
- ii. Update on replacement zip wire design. It was resolved to discuss this at the April 2026 meeting.
- iii. Consider estimates received for village maintenance and grass cutting 26-27. After extensive discussion, during which no consensus was reached, Cllr Sadler proposed that the quotes from the current contractors be approved. The proposal was put to a vote. Three Councillors voted in favour of retaining the existing contractors, and two voted against. Cllr Sadler requested that it be recorded in the minutes that he was appalled by the Council's decision. Cllr Sadler requested that it be recorded in the minutes that he voted against the proposal. It was resolved that the services of the current contractors be retained.
- iv. Consider quotation received for fence repairs. The quotation received for fence repairs was considered. It was proposed by Cllr Heaney and seconded by Cllr Sadler that the quotation for the full scope of repairs be accepted. All members present were in agreement. It was resolved that the Council approve and proceed with the full scope of fence repairs as quoted.
- v. Update on repairs to benches and gate in children's play area. It was resolved to consider this item at the April 2026 meeting.
- vi. Consider location for commemorative blossom tree and plaque to honour community volunteers and remember those affected by the COVID19. It was resolved that the tree would be planted in the cemetery.
- vii. Arrangements for topping up the bark in the children's play area. This will be done after a spell of drier weather.
- viii. Consider if the Parish Council was interested in paying for the removal of the concrete skate ramp base and replacing it with some of the soil from the cricket nets installation. It was resolved that the Council did not wish to do this.
- ix. Consider if the Parish Council wish to create a grassy mound with some of the soil from the cricket net installation. It was resolved that the Parish Council did not wish to proceed with this.

Social issues

216/25-26 Housing

- i. Consider dates in April or May for initial discussions on whether there are any possible sites for a new housing scheme in Ickleton. Clerk to send a range of proposed dates to Councillors.

Transport and Streets

217/25-26 Traffic calming

- i. Update on LHI application. A site visit was attended by Cllrs Sadler and Sadler with a representative from Cambridgeshire County Council.

218/25-26 Action list update and Councillors' reports. There is paperwork to be done in relation to the second MVAS prior to installation.

219/25-26 Matters for Further Discussion. Fence between Village Hall and pub wall is in need of repair. Request for community volunteers to lead Nature Recovery Strategy. Clerk to seek further quotations for flint wall repairs.

220/25-26 *Date and time of next Parish Council meeting: Wednesday 15th April 2026 at 7.30pm.*
Any business and payments to be considered at the Parish Council Meeting must be delivered to the Clerk for inclusion on the agenda at least 7 days prior to the meeting

Close

The meeting closed at 10.25pm

Signed: S Heaney

Dated 15th April 2026

Appendix A

Parish Council Report March 2026

South Cambs Council

2026/27 Budget and Corporate Plan

The budget for 2026/27 was agreed at a Full Council meeting on 24 February, along with the Corporate Action Plan for the year, the budget and plan for housing, and key policies such as the Localised Council Tax Support Scheme that provides support for Council Tax payments for those in greatest need. At the same meeting, the Climate and Nature Strategy for 2026–30 was agreed to provide leadership in climate action, resilience and sustainable growth. Support for the voluntary and community sector is boosted to £300k per year, £225k per year is allocated for cost-of-living support, and ongoing support for Mobile Warden Schemes was agreed.

The Council Tax precept for the District Council will increase by 2.99% or £5.24 per year for a Band D property. This compares with a CPI inflation rate of 3.4%, wage growth of 4.2% (both from December 2025), and a state pension increase of 4.7% this year. The Council is expected to remain among the lowest-taxing 25% of district councils in the country.

The budget accounts for the fact that the government has recently reduced the amount of Business Rates that local authorities can retain, further reducing our funding.

Cambridge Growth Company

The Cambridge Growth Company (CGC) was established by the government in 2024 to foster additional economic growth in the Cambridge area by delivering housing, transport, water, and wider infrastructure. The council questioned the CGC Chair, Peter Freeman, at a Scrutiny & Overview Committee meeting on 29 January where the CGC gave firm reassurance that their aim was to support the delivery of the new Local Plan by helping to solve water and transport problems, rather than to rewrite it. The government is currently consulting on their plan to further the work of the CGC by forming a Development Corporation. The consultation closes on 1 April and I encourage Parish Councils and interested residents to respond. The council is holding an Extraordinary Meeting on 17 March to discuss its response.

Food waste collections

In line with changing government requirements for food waste collection, weekly food waste collections are now already taking place in some parts of the district, including in Heydon and The Chishills. Residents should receive a letter in March with details of the change and information on how we will receive our food waste caddy. More information is available on the council's web site. <https://www.greatercambridgewaste.org/foodwaste>

Council tenant satisfaction survey

The Housing Service has appointed M·E·L Research to carry out the Annual Tenant Satisfaction Measures (TSM) Survey with all our council tenants. Tenants should recently have received letters inviting them to complete the survey either on paper using the Freepost envelope included or online. I encourage all council tenants to respond to help the Housing Service deliver a high-quality service. The survey closes on 28 March.

Councils awarded over £5million for water saving measures

Greater Cambridge Shared Planning – the shared planning service for Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire District councils – has received Government funding of over £5million to deliver part of the Greater Cambridge Water Efficiency Programme and help address water scarcity locally. The councils will use this funding to drive down

demand for water in the area and offset new development by installing water saving devices in existing Council-owned buildings through a programme of retrofit work across partner councils.

Cambs County Council

Record spending on roads, thousands of extra school places and support for vulnerable residents underpin Cambridgeshire County Council's ambitious budget, approved by a majority of Councillors in Feb. By approving the 2026–29 Business Plan and Budget, Councillors have approved a legal, balanced budget that also drives investment for vital services that communities say matter most to them. The nearly £1.3 billion Business and Budget Plan includes a number of investments aligned with the council's three new ambitions:

Supporting a green and sustainable county

To improve day to day journeys for drivers, cyclists and bus users, it has allocated an additional £20m for highway maintenance, on top of Government funding, to provide safer and more reliable roads across Cambridgeshire. The council will also continue to provide leadership and deliver its Climate Change and Environment Strategy.

Enabling full and healthy lives for all

To support older people, adults with disabilities and families, who rely on care every day, the council is allocating £14.7m of additional funding for adult social care providers. This will help them to manage rising costs and ensure care workers are paid the Real Living Wage, improving stability and quality for those who depend on care workers for their support.

Ensuring fairness and opportunity

To help families under pressure from the cost-of-living crisis, the council is prioritising £1m to continue holiday meal vouchers for the children most in need, through to the end of summer 2026. As the Government withdraws the Household Support Fund, the council will also use its new £5m Crisis and Resilience Fund to provide a wider range of anti-poverty measures, offering practical support to households facing financial challenges.

The plan will create 3,500 new primary school places and invest £72 million over five years to increase secondary school places, including at Alconbury Weald and North-West Cambridge. It also includes £780,000 a year to run a children's residential home in South Cambridgeshire, as well as continued funding for the Families First programme, an early-intervention project that helps keep more families together and is supported by the £6.7 million Children's, Families and Youth Grant. In addition, more than £1.2 million will be invested in libraries and archives over the next two years.

The plans discussed included an increase of council tax by 4.99%, the maximum permitted by Government for county councils, as is the case in nearly all councils across England, and the level assumed by Government in setting its grant allocations. A total 2% of this increase is specifically for adult social care funding. The increase will generate around £21million in additional funding and help the council continue providing the essential services people rely on. This will mean that for a Band D property, the County Council's share of Council Tax would increase by £84.78 a year, or £1.63 a week.

Low Income Family Tracker

Councillors at the Communities, Social Mobility and Inclusion Committee approved procurement of a data-led system that will allow more targeted support for low-income families in order to address and prevent poverty.

The new data-led system will be delivered in collaboration with the district and city councils across Cambridgeshire and is expected to help:

- Identify missed benefits— such as those that should be claiming national benefits like Pension Credit, but are not doing so

- Increase access to Free School Meals by notifying eligible families not currently receiving this support, with the knock-on effect of also securing additional pupil premium funding for schools
- Identify geographic pockets of need at a hyper-local level to support the planning and delivery of other council services
- South Cambridgeshire District Council have already adopted such a system, and in the last 12 months has secured nearly 1,000 additional claims for residents which are worth over £500k to residents in their first year alone, with a lifetime value of nearly £4 million based on average claim lengths.

The committee unanimously approved procurement of the new system for an annual cost of between £200-£220k, for a 3-year period (for a total contract value of £600k-£660k).

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) has confirmed that the full cost can be paid for using funding provided to the council by the Government's new Crisis and Resilience Fund.

Data-led systems used in other areas have shown a return on investment of over £400 for each £1 spent. This new platform will enable the council to focus on preventing residents from falling into poverty by building their financial resilience, reducing their future vulnerability and the need for subsequent more costly crisis interventions.

Following the approval of the Business Plan and Budget for 2026-27 earlier this month, the council has committed to ensuring fairness and opportunity wherever we can by investing in targeted interventions that help move people out of poverty and build long-term financial stability and independence. Procurement of this new system is a key milestone in delivering on this ambition for the people of Cambridgeshire.

Highways

728 potholes were filled in S Cambs in week 8. There are 513 out standing. We are trying to set up a highways call for Parishes March 9th 6pm. The Highways Committee agenda is here:

<https://cambridgeshire.cmis.uk.com/ccclive/MeetingsCalendar/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/2567/Committee/62/Default.aspx>

Peter McDonald March 2nd 2026