



MINUTES OF ICKLETON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held in the Gordon Woolhouse Meeting Room, Ickleton Village Hall, Frogge Street, Ickleton, CB10 1SH.
Wednesday 17 June 2026 starting at 7.30 pm

Present: Cllr Simon Cheney, Cllr Lucy Davidson, Cllr Steve Heaney (Chair), Cllr John Gidley, Cllr P Hamilton and Cllr Peter Wombwell.

In attendance: South Cambridgeshire District Cllr Peter McDonald (arrived at 7.50 pm), Barbara Benn (Clerk) and one member of the public.

Open

The Chair opened the meeting at 7.30 pm

026/26-27 Open Forum for Public Participation. No matters were raised.

Formalities

027/26-27 Apologies for absence. None.

028/26-27 Councillors' Declarations of Interest and requests for dispensations. None.

029/26-27 To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 20 May 2026. It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 20 May 2026 be approved and signed as a true and accurate record.

Agenda

030/26-27 Reports from South Cambridgeshire District Councillors (SCDCllrs) and Cambridgeshire County Councillors (CCCllrs). Report circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. Councillors discussed the Woodland Creation Initiative. Further discussion took place later in the meeting.
See Appendix A.

Council

031/26-27 Projects and Initiatives

- i. Receive an update from the Cemetery Extension Working Group and consider next steps. Agree any actions. Assistance is being sought with the planning application process.
- ii. Consider risk assessments and quotation concerning the groundwater investigations at the cemetery extension. The quotation was considered and it was resolved to seek two further quotations.

032/26-27 Tax and Finance

i. *To note receipts from:*

Ice advertising - £264.00

Donations - £500.00

A donation of £2,704.49 was received after publication of the agenda.

A payment of £839.54 from Cambridgeshire County Council was received after publication of the agenda.

To approve payment of June 2026 accounts:

T Pavelin, invoice 56, bin emptying, June 26 - £80.00

Clerk's salary (confidential)
E&E Plumridge, INV-5538, Icene May 2026 - £173.00
Red Shoes, invoice 18591, Payroll service - £54.00
HMRC, Q1 employer NI payment - £142.80
Bank charge - £7.00 (DD to be taken 30th June 2026)

It was resolved that the payments listed above be approved for payment.

- ii. Bank reconciliation. Current account £38,683.07, Instant access account £15,244.64. Total £53,927.71. It was resolved that the bank reconciliation for May 2026 is approved and signed.
- iii. Consider whether the Parish Council is able to meet the upfront costs of purchasing food and refreshments for a village fundraising event. It was resolved that the Parish Council would meet the upfront costs of food and refreshments for the event up to a maximum of £300, with reimbursement from event proceeds where possible.

District Councillor Peter McDonald joined the meeting at 7.50 pm. The Chair brought forward Item 030/26-27 to enable his report to be received.

- A decision is expected soon on Local Government Reorganisation options.
- Cambridge Growth Company would potentially have oversight of any developments over 250 homes.
- The issue of the poor standard of recent pothole repairs was brought to the attention of SCDClr McDonald. SCDClr McDonald will arrange for Highways to inspect the repairs. In addition the potholes on Church Street have not yet been repaired. These will also be looked at.
- The issue of damaged low bridge signs was raised and Clr McDonald will also raise this with Highways.
- The safety of pedestrians on Grange Road was raised as there is no longer a path. This will also be brought to the attention of Highways by SCDClr McDonald.

033/26-27

Safety and Risk Management

- i. Consider whether to get prices for an updated insurance valuations report. The last valuation report for the chapel and boundary wall was completed in 2022. It was resolved that an updated valuation was not currently required.
- ii. Consider who will undertake the monthly playground checks. It was resolved that Clr Davidson would undertake the monthly playground inspection.
- iii. Consider quotation for additional Cyber Insurance cover for 2026-27. It was resolved that additional Cyber Insurance cover was not currently required.

Community

034/26-27

Churchyard and Cemetery

- i. Chapel doorway repairs update. Quotations are awaited and the matter will be considered at the July meeting.
- ii. Consider commissioning a professional condition survey of the chapel to identify any urgent works required. It was resolved that a survey was not currently required.
- iii. Consider next steps in relation to the ownership of the wall between Mowbrays and the churchyard and agree any actions. It was resolved that the Parish Council was unable to establish ownership of the wall.

Environment

035/26-27

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:
26/01994/HFUL Site: 20 Coploe Road. Proposal: Erection of bridge to front of dwelling to create new access. It was resolved to support this application.

26/01977/LBC Site: 37 Frogge Street. Proposal: Raise height of existing chimney using handmade bricks and lime mortar and adding a terracotta chimney pot. Replace existing multi-fuel stove with new stove including steel register plate and insulated flue lining. Work is required to meet HETAS fire safety requirements. It was resolved to support this application.

26/02123/HFUL Site: 32 Brookhampton Street. Proposal: Installation of a ground mounted solar array in the eastern corner of the site. The solar array will be connected to battery storage sited in a plant room in an existing outbuilding adjacent to the main house. It was resolved to support this application.

- ii. To note SCDC planning decisions:

26/01124/HFUL Site: 5 Grange Road. Proposal: Dropped kerb. Status: Application Permitted

26/0412/TTCA Site: Caldrees Manor 2 Abbey Street. Proposal: T15 - Horse Chestnut - Remove tree to near ground level. T28 - Yew - Crown lift to approximately 6 metres. T32 - Leylandii - Remove tree and grind stump below ground level. Status: No objection.

- iii. To consider any comments to be returned to SCDC relating to tree works:

26/0569/TTCA Site: 1 Priory Farm Barns, Swinton House Back Lane, Proposal: T1 - Silver Birch - Reduce crown by 1.5 metres T2 - Ash - Reduce crown by 1.5 metres T3 - Field Maple - Reduce crown by 1.5 metres. It was resolved not to comment.

- iv. Consider quotes received for fence and gate replacement and alternative bollard installation and decide on which to approve. It was resolved to accept the quotation from Garden Support in the sum of £660.00 for the replacement of the fence and gate.

- v. Consider request to install memorial bench at the recreation ground and agree location. It was resolved to approve the installation and proposed location of the memorial bench.

- vi. Update on zip wire installation and community fundraising. Consider if the Parish Council wish to place a firm order with Playquip for the zip wire. It was resolved to place a firm order for the zip wire installation with Playquip.

036/26-27 Natural Environment

- i. Consider next steps for Local Nature Recovery Group and agree any actions. A village group has been set up and commenced work to clear Himalayan balsam from the watercourse. It was resolved that Cllr Davidson would contact volunteers to arrange for a meeting with a view to setting up a village Local Nature Recovery Group.

037/26-27 Receive an update on actions arising from previous meetings and Councillors' reports. Potential suppliers for the Microsoft upgrade, email migration and website migration have been contacted, and responses are expected before the July meeting.

038/26-27 Matters for Further Discussion. A member of the public was invited to address the Councillors. The Church wished to thank the Parish Council for its support during the building works. The project is progressing well and the church is expected to reopen on 1 July 2026.

An email was received regarding hedge cutting. A reminder about appropriate hedge-cutting periods will be included in the July edition of Icene.

039/26-27 **Date and time of next Parish Council meeting: Wednesday 15 July 2026 at 7.30 pm**

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 9.15 pm

Signed: *S Heaney*

Dated: 22 July 2026

Parish Council Report June 2026

South Cambs Council

Local Government Reorganisation

Four options for Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) were submitted to the government in November. The Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government consulted on these in March. The options are shown below, with the list of authorities that supported each option. We are expecting a decision from the government on which option will be chosen in July. Once this is known, joint committees will be formed between the existing councils to lead the transition process. The Structural Changes Order (the parliamentary legislation that enables the reorganisation process) is expected to be published in the autumn. Elections to the shadow authority are likely to be held in May 2027 with the new unitary authority taking control on 1 April 2028. It is expected that the 2027 elections will take place on current ward boundaries, with a boundary review taking place before the following set of elections in 2032. Parish Councils will not be affected directly by the legislation, although the election cycle is likely to change and parishes will only be served by one councillor where today they are served by two.



Energy Efficiency Award

The District Council was Highly Commended in the East of England 2026 Regional Energy Efficiency Awards, based on significant energy efficiency improvements at South Cambs Hall, in our social housing stock, and at the Waterbeach Renewable Energy Network.

New Cabinet appointed

The Cabinet for the new District Council administration has been confirmed as:

<https://www.scams.gov.uk/councillors-and-committees/our-cabinet-members>

Zero Carbon Grants

The eighth round of the Council's Zero Carbon Communities Grant is now open, offering a share of £152,000 to projects across the district that will reduce carbon emissions and foster community engagement around climate change. The scheme is open to Parish Councils and a wide range of community groups, offering grants of between £2,000 and £19,500. The web site includes detailed guidance on how to apply and examples of previous successful projects. The closing date for applications is 24 July. I encourage all Parish Councils and community groups to consider applying for funds to help develop sustainable facilities in our villages. Since its launch in 2019, the grant scheme has funded 82 different projects, awarding over £855,000 to initiatives across the district.

<https://www.scambs.gov.uk/news/council-pledges-more-money-for-zero-carbon-communities-grants>

East West Rail consultation

The East West Rail company's final consultation is still open until 9 June. This will be the last opportunity for our communities to have their say on the plans and help shape the final design.

<https://eastwestrail.co.uk/news/latest-stories/east-west-rail-announces-details-of-final-consultation>

Cambs County Council

Woodland Initiative

Cambridgeshire County Council is inviting communities, landowners and farmers to come forward if they have land suitable for new woodland, hedgerow creation, and nature recovery, as part of a campaign to rebuild the county's depleted tree cover.

Cambridgeshire is one of the most tree-depleted counties in England, with intensive agriculture and the loss of traditional hedgerows leaving habitats fragmented and wildlife increasingly isolated.

The Woodland Creation project, led by Cambridgeshire County Council and funded by the Forestry Commission, aims to reverse this trend by increasing tree and woodland canopy cover and expanding hedgerows across the county, to open up potential opportunities, such as agroforestry. The project delivers a wide range of benefits including climate resilience, carbon storage, flood management, improved biodiversity, cleaner air and better public health.

The initiative directly aligns with the council's ambition for a green and sustainable Cambridgeshire, helping to expand and better connect woodland and hedgerow networks across the county and to restore nature.

Woodland creation will ensure new planting strengthens ecological networks and delivers maximum benefit for both wildlife and people. By creating new woodland and hedgerow corridors, the project aims to support thriving nature, manage flooding more effectively, store carbon and create healthier, more resilient landscapes.

This campaign also links closely with Cambridgeshire County Council's 'Nature Recovery – From the Ground Up' project, which supports local communities to develop their own Community Nature Recovery Plans, helping people identify and deliver nature recovery projects that matter most to them while informed by the Local Nature Recovery Strategy.

The Council is now inviting expressions of interest from community and parish groups, landowners and farmers with land of 0.5 hectares or more that may be suitable for tree planting, woodland creation, hedgerow improvement or wider nature recovery initiatives.

Priority will be given to:

- Lower-grade agricultural land
- Sites next to existing habitats such as woodland, wetlands or meadows
- Land that can help connect ecological networks across Cambridgeshire.

Those interested are encouraged to complete the secure online form by 30 June 2026 for the 2026/27 planting season. Further information about the offers to support the delivery of these woodlands will be available over the next couple of months: [Woodland Creation | Cambridgeshire County Council](#)

Quality of Life Survey

Cambridgeshire County Council has launched its annual [Quality of Life survey](#), inviting residents to share their views on life in Cambridgeshire and the issues that matter most to them and their communities.

The survey supports the council's vision of a healthy, fair and sustainable Cambridgeshire, where everyone can thrive now and in the future.

The survey helps the council and its partners understand residents' experiences and priorities across the county.

By gathering feedback from a large and representative cross-section of communities, the findings provide valuable insight to support business planning, policy development, and decision-making, as well as helping to understand how changes to public services are affecting people's lives.

This insight is used to help shape the council's Business Plan and Budget, tracking progress against the council's Strategic Framework ambitions over time.

The online and telephone survey will capture the views of around 5,500 residents and is being delivered in partnership with Cambridge Ahead and the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority.

The 20-minute survey is being carried out by independent market research company Thinks Insight, which aims to speak to a representative sample of approximately 1,100 residents aged 18 and over in each of Cambridgeshire's five district areas, ensuring a broad and balanced range of perspectives.

Residents will be asked about a range of topics, including life and community, transport, health and wellbeing, children and young people, and perceptions of the council and its services.

Previous survey findings have shown that many residents feel happy, safe and have a strong sense of belonging, with Cambridgeshire widely seen as a good place to raise children.

They have also highlighted areas where residents would like to see improvement, such as road and pavement maintenance, the cost of living, and mental health and loneliness.

Alongside the random sample, all residents are encouraged to take part via the council's website at: www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/quality-of-life-survey

The survey will remain open into the summer and close on 5 August 2026, after which responses will be analysed and shared with Councillors and the public in the autumn.

The results will help inform council discussions and priorities for the years ahead.

Residents who are contacted directly will be approached by the council's commissioned research service, Field Locker, who will identify themselves as working on behalf of Cambridgeshire County Council and provide contact details for verification.

Participants will not be asked for identifying personal details or any financial information.

Peter McDonald June 5th 2026