

Babraham Parish Council: Minutes of Meeting held 10th April 2025

Present:

Stuart Laurie: Chair

Denise Dear: Vice Chair

Rob Attwood

Jane Goody

Tim Jones

Anne Charteris: Clerk

Cllr Brian Milnes

Cllr Peter McDonald

Members of the Public: 5

	<p>Part I: Non-Confidential Information</p>
2504/01	<p>To receive and approve apologies for absence Chris Chapman BRC</p>
2504/02	<p>To receive members' declaration of interest for items on this agenda None</p>
2504/03	<p>To sign and approve minutes of meeting dated 13th March 2025 Approved and signed</p>
2504/04	<p>Exclusion of the public To determine which items, if any, from Part 1 of the Agenda should be taken with the public excluded</p>
2504/05	<p>Report from South Cambridgeshire District Councillor P McDonald</p> <p>Five-year land supply In December the government published new planning policies which increased housing targets with no notice period to allow councils to adjust. This resulted in the five-year land supply for the Greater Cambridge area temporarily dipping from 6.5 years to 4.6 years. The Greater Cambridge Shared Planning team have published a new report which calculates the current five year land supply, which is now 5.5 years. This provides assurance that the provisions of the Local Plan are fully enforceable. https://www.greatercambridgeplanning.org/current-plans-and-guidance/monitoring-delivery-in-greater-cambridge/</p> <p>Warm Homes funding South Cambridgeshire District Council has been awarded several million pounds in funding from the Government's Department for Energy Security and Net Zero as part of the national Warm Homes programme. We have been allocated £8.2m as part of the Warm Homes Social Housing Fund. This fund supports social housing providers to insulate social homes, improve energy efficiency and upgrade heating systems. It will help retrofit social homes and tackle fuel poverty for residents, deliver carbon savings to progress toward net zero. Additionally, a consortium of local councils has been awarded £8.5m under the Warm Homes: Local Grant scheme. This is a fund to improve energy performance and provide</p>

2504/06	<p>low carbon heating in private homes. Congratulations to the housing teams for all their hard work in securing these funding awards. https://www.scambs.gov.uk/news/millions-secured-for-warmer-homes-in-south-cambridgeshire</p> <p>New council website</p> <p>The website for South Cambridgeshire District Council went through a major upgrade on 25 March. New features include streamlined navigation, improved accessibility and localisation; residents can put their postcode in and find information purely relevant to their area, such as their local councillors, the bin schedule, planning applications and local events. Please submit any feedback on the new site using the Leave feedback button at the top of each page.</p> <p>New tenant in South Cambs Hall</p> <p>The council has been actively seeking tenants to make best use of the space available in South Cambs Hall. From 10 April, The ICT Service, a school advisory and support service run by the County Council, will be located on the ground floor as part of the strategy to optimise the use of South Cambs Hall for local community and business support</p> <p>Local government reorganisation</p> <p>There has been a great deal of discussion between local councils in this area about the possibilities for local government reorganisation. A letter was sent to the Local Government Minister as requested at the end of March to confirm that the councils in Cambridgeshire have been exploring the possibilities constructively together. This was approved by the council at an extraordinary meeting on 19 March. However, it is much too early at this stage to know what shape the reorganisation will take in Cambridgeshire. There is now a FAQ page on the council's website to explain the government's plans for local government reorganisation and the possible consequences. I will keep parishes updated as the likely outcome for this area gradually becomes clearer.</p> <p>Net Zero Villages grant</p> <p>Over £360k has been awarded to climate-friendly causes across the district through the Net Zero Villages scheme, which opened last December. Successful applicants included Shepreth Parish Council, which will receive £62k to improve the energy efficiency of Shepreth Village Hall and Ickleton which received £22k for the Ickleton Lion .The next opportunity to apply for funding for similar projects is the council's Zero Carbon Communities Grant, which opens for application in May. https://www.scambs.gov.uk/news/over-360000-awarded-to-climate-friendly-causes-through-net-zero-villages-grant</p> <p>HAF Programme</p> <p>Funding for the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme has been extended by the Department for Education into 2025. The programme offers families the opportunity to access funded places and a meal for their child during the main school holidays of Easter, Summer, and Christmas. With a focus on providing healthy meals alongside engaging activities, this programme is ideal for children to stay healthy and more active this Easter. Any child receiving benefit-related free school meals is eligible for the programme, which will run between 7 – 17 April. Approximately 20,000 HAF eligibility vouchers were sent to families on 3 March. Each voucher offers a child 16 hours of access, for no charge, to a HAF registered holiday scheme during the Easter school holidays. Further information can be found at Cambridgeshire Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme - Cambridgeshire County Council</p> <p>Report from Cambridgeshire County Councillors Brian Milnes and Maria King</p> <p>Cllr Milnes said that this would be his final report as he was standing down at the next elections in May. The Annual Report is now available in full on the Babraham PC website.</p>
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<p>2504/07</p> <p>2504/08</p>	<p>Local Government reorganisation : proposals due in by Mid Nov, boundaries likely to remain the same, however County and District councils will probably disappear, there are supposed to be financial benefits and efficiency gains, however there is some doubt about this. Parish Councils are likely to have more roles to play and probably no more money. More money has been allocated towards roadworks.</p> <p>Speed bumps- Brian will continue to chase this and PC will look into legal ways to get the money refunded.</p> <p>Report from Babraham Research Campus (BRC) representative.</p> <p>Report received prior to meeting:</p> <p>Master Plan Outline Planning Application – Next Public Consultation meeting</p> <p>Following our initial public consultation, we have taken on board the feedback shared and have been working to shape a roadmap for the Campus that reflects both our aspirations and those of the local community.</p> <p>We are now preparing to launch the second round of public consultation and we will be inviting the village residents and surrounding community to attend a consultation event taking place on the Campus the latter part of May.</p> <p>All participants will have the opportunity to learn more about our updated thinking and proposals and share their views and ideas directly with the campus team. We will also share our vision on how we plan to open up Campus facilities for local residents.</p> <p>As before we will advertise this out through mail-drops to all households, via social media and of course directly with the Parish Council and other local community groups and representatives.</p> <p>News from across the estate</p> <p>The Estates team have been busily finishing off the end of the seasons tree surgery works all across the public footpaths and boundary areas of the estate. The most notable of these being the declined Sequoia on the front parkland - the team has been creative in making some seats from the stump - please do drop by and pay your respects to this veteran tree.</p> <p>The Estates team have been finishing off the winters tree works, which culminates each year with pollarding a section of the willows along the river. The best of the tops are bundled up and propped in the pond for a couple of weeks - by which time they will have developed roots ready for planting out on the estate. This year this has yielded 940 new sapling willows.</p> <p>We are also carrying out the first application of a new natural deer repellent product, derived from sheep lanolin, which will (fingers crossed) deter the deer from causing browsing damage to the new coppice regrowth in the woodlands.</p> <p>There are newly planted areas of hedgerow restoration out on the Estate, finished off today (10 April) with willow additions, grown on from cuttings of the pollards along the Granta.</p> <p>Grasslands & meadows are currently being topped to check-back the dominating grass species and allow the wildflowers to establish. The Wild Bird cover and winter food areas are being tilled ready for re-seeding</p> <p>We are aware of the motorcross riders using the footpaths and are looking into measures to stop them.</p> <p>We recently received a visit from the traveller community, who took residence in the field adjacent to the roundabout at the main entrance to the campus. After an overnight stay they moved on to new pastures.</p> <p>Public participation time – 15 minutes allowed</p> <p>The candidate from Reform for this area came to the meeting to introduce himself.</p>
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2504/09	CSET- the decision has been postponed until June as the Dept Transport is still discussing this.
2504/10	Village Hall- still looking into whether the PC can take over the sum of money raised, need to check with the Charity.
2504/11	Forest Garden Project. A steering group meeting has been held. The Lease is still being drawn up. Signage, this is being put together which will give several signs showing the concept of the Forest Garden. Once draft has been decided, then quotes will be obtained. This years planting will be the lower level plants and will be planted in Sept there are 7 layers in total. Putting a container into the Forest Garden was discussed, a decision yet to be made whilst other locations explored.
2504/12	Neighbourhood Plan. As the Local Plan has not been approved, the Neighbourhood Plan cannot be submitted. The Close development will be removed from the NP, as BRC are submitting the Close plan as otherwise there may be a delay of 18 months. A request for the next NP grant will be requested later this year when the grant opens. The Plan will be tidied up and submitted as soon as possible after Local Plan decided. One place that has not been tackled is the “core” of the village, the area around the War Memorial, alms-houses and the green in front of the George. It is hoped that this can be looked at and improved, the entrance to the Close is being changed and maybe the architects can look into this are and have some suggestions. Chris Chapman is arranging a meeting and it is hoped that the design can go beyond the boundary of the Close.
2504/13	Updates from last meeting. Highways problems <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speed bumps problems – spoken about earlier in the meeting. • Renewal of Contract for grass cutting and bin emptying- May 2025- tenders have been asked for. <p>The quotes were discussed and it was agreed unanimously that CGM would be awarded the contract beginning in May. Clerk to contact the contractors to advise them of this decision.</p>
2504/14	General Village Matters and new items for discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrangements for the APM and Annual Parish Council meeting May 8th. Refreshments to be bought for the Annual Parish Meeting. The date to be changed as 2 Councillors will be away on the 8th, so date brought forward to the 1st May • Breakfast at the Church get-together. This is on the 7th June, it was agreed to donate £150 towards the costs. To be posted on website and Facebook, • To alter signatories on The Cambridge Building Society account- remove names of those Councillors who have left and add new members including Clerk so that she can have access to transfer money etc. This to be looked into- check that Clerk can be a signatory. • Subscription to online service to convert PDFs. Jpegs to Word for putting items online. This will cost £60 per annum, cost to be shared with Hinxton PC who will also have use of this service as Clerk also works for them. • The village newsletter is now ready for distribution and also put on website. • Bus shelter: graffiti to be painted over. • Flooding at Brick Row- Clerk to contact Highways as it seems that there is a broken pipe
2504/15	FINANCE Receipts and Transfers (as of 3rd April 2025)

<p>2504/16</p>	<p>Unity Trust: Bank Interest £886.06 Sec 106 money from SCDC: £94,795.65 – transferred to Business acc from Current acc</p> <p>Payments (as of 3rd April 2025)</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Clerk</td> <td>Salary/Tax/Expenses-</td> <td>confidential</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hugo Fox</td> <td>Website provider</td> <td>£35.99</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Unity Trust bank</td> <td>Bank charges</td> <td>£7.05</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Chris Winch</td> <td>Ride-on mower</td> <td>£150.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>*Dropbox sub</i></td> <td><i>Paid by Clerk and refunded</i></td> <td><i>£95.88</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>*Petrol, trees,grass seed</i></td> <td><i>Refunded to Cllr Attwood</i></td> <td><i>£55.99</i></td> </tr> </table> <p><i>*(not included in the balances below)</i></p> <p>A full list of payments was circulated and signed off at the meeting</p>	Clerk	Salary/Tax/Expenses-	confidential	Hugo Fox	Website provider	£35.99	Unity Trust bank	Bank charges	£7.05	Chris Winch	Ride-on mower	£150.00	<i>*Dropbox sub</i>	<i>Paid by Clerk and refunded</i>	<i>£95.88</i>	<i>*Petrol, trees,grass seed</i>	<i>Refunded to Cllr Attwood</i>	<i>£55.99</i>				
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<p>2504/17</p>	<p>Balances and Bank Reconciliation at 3rd April 2025</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Unity Current A/C balance</td> <td>£2886.14</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Unity Savings A/C balance</td> <td>£235,135.33</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cambridge Building Society</td> <td>£84,235.61</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TOTAL</td> <td>£322,259.08</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Above total includes Reserves:</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td> Sec 106/ Village Hall</td> <td>£221,223.95</td> </tr> <tr> <td> Public Art</td> <td>£ 36,933.97</td> </tr> <tr> <td> Playground</td> <td>£25,000.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td> Forest Garden</td> <td>£1628.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td> Total Reserved</td> <td>£284,221785.92</td> </tr> <tr> <td> Total remaining for PC</td> <td>£37,473.16</td> </tr> </table> <p>PLANNING</p>	Unity Current A/C balance	£2886.14	Unity Savings A/C balance	£235,135.33	Cambridge Building Society	£84,235.61	TOTAL	£322,259.08	Above total includes Reserves:		Sec 106/ Village Hall	£221,223.95	Public Art	£ 36,933.97	Playground	£25,000.00	Forest Garden	£1628.00	Total Reserved	£284,221785.92	Total remaining for PC	£37,473.16
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<p>2504/18</p>	<p>Applications received: none</p>																						
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<p>2504/20</p>	<p>Correspondence.</p>																						
<p>2504/21</p>	<p>Items for inclusion in the next meeting EV Charging points</p> <p>Date of next meetings: Thursday 1st May 6.30pm Annual Meeting of the Parish Council followed by Annual Parish Meeting at 7.30pm Thursday 12th June 2025 at 7.30pm</p> <p>Part II: Confidential Information</p>																						
<p>2504/22</p>	<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> 15th April 2025 10 Duxford Road, Hinxton, Saffron Walden, Essex, CB10 1RB 01799 531827</p>																						