

# Babraham Parish Council: Minutes of meeting held 9<sup>th</sup> January 2025

**Stuart Laurie: Chair**

**Denise Dear: Vice Chair**

**Rob Attwood**

**Jane Goody**

**Chris Chapman BRC**

**Cllr Brian Milnes**

**Anne Charteris: Clerk**

**Members of the Public: 3**

	<p><b>Part I: Non-Confidential Information</b></p>
<b>2501/01</b>	<p><b>To receive and approve apologies for absence</b> None received</p>
<b>2501/02</b>	<p><b>To receive members' declaration of interest for items on this agenda</b> None declared</p>
<b>2501/03</b>	<p><b>To sign and approve minutes of meeting dated 14<sup>th</sup> Nov 2024</b> Minutes approved and signed off</p>
<b>2501/04</b>	<p><b>Exclusion of the public</b> To determine which items, if any, from Part 1 of the Agenda should be taken with the public excluded</p>
<b>2501/05</b>	<p><b>To Co-Opt new Councillor</b> – Tim Jones was co-opted onto the Parish Council, proposed by SL, seconded by DD and all in favour</p>
<b>2501/06</b>	<p><b>Report from South Cambridgeshire District Councillor P McDonald</b> The report can be found in full on the website, but in brief</p> <p><b><u>Grants for Improving the High Street</u></b> A new £200,000 grant scheme has been launched to boost the heart of communities across the district. Grants of between £5,000 to £20,000 per project are available to rural businesses, community groups and Parish Councils across the district. The scheme aims to improve the look of local high streets, promote rejuvenation, encourage residents to shop locally, and to attract more local businesses to the area. The grant can cover a wide range of projects such as renovating shop fronts, street art, new benches, hanging baskets, interactive family fun trails, street cleaning, local maps or new signs. The scheme is part of the Government's UK Shared Prosperity Fund. Scrutiny of council and partner services . <a href="https://www.scambs.gov.uk/business/uk-shared-prosperity-fund/improving-the-high-street-grant">https://www.scambs.gov.uk/business/uk-shared-prosperity-fund/improving-the-high-street-grant</a></p> <p><b>Anglian Water &amp; EA</b> In the October meeting we were visited by representatives from Anglian Water, the Environment Agency and the County Council to examine the state of drainage, flood control and pollution mitigation. This followed some extraordinary failures in recent months including sewage outflows in Fowlmere and Ickleton in the spring/summer and an alarming rate of discharge into our watercourses across the district. Unsurprisingly, serious questions were asked about these incidents. Anglian Water have since agreed to regular meetings with local representatives to avoid a repeat of these incidents.</p>

2501/07	<p><b>Pilot Employment Hubs</b></p> <p>The pilot Employment Hub project now has 3 locations in place to support people who have been unemployed for some time due to a long-term physical/mental health condition or a disability. One of these is at the Melbourn Hub, provided by Citizens Advice. Funding has been allocated for 1 year,</p> <p><b>Cambridge Biomedical Campus Development</b></p> <p>On 23rd October the Cambridge Biomedical Campus Landowners' Collaborative Group offered an update on our long-term development aspirations for the sustainable development and expansion of the Cambridge Biomedical Campus. Residents and stakeholders at the Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Community Planning Update meeting heard that the outline concepts, which are at their earliest stages, put Addenbrooke's Hospital at the heart of a wider vision to meet health and community needs across the Cambridge Biomedical Campus site. The recording and slides are here: <a href="https://www.greatercambridgeplanning.org/about-us/news/cambridge-biomedical-campus-planning-update/">https://www.greatercambridgeplanning.org/about-us/news/cambridge-biomedical-campus-planning-update/</a></p> <p>Other items of interest were that Parish Councils can register any assets of Community Value, eg if a pub is put up for sale and it has been registered, the community can then enact the Community Right to Bid, which gives them a moratorium period of six months to determine if they can raise the finance to purchase the asset.</p> <p>Empty houses: there are currently approx. 2,500 homes standing empty. These may become liable to double tax next year.</p> <p>SCDC is planning a 4.9% rise in Council tax to help plug the gap of £34 million</p> <p><b>Report from Cambridgeshire County Councillors Brian Milnes and Maria King East West Rail Consultation period</b></p> <p>East West Rail (EWR) are concluding their Non-Statutory Consultation: the closing date is 24 January 2025. The information on the consultation events and the documents with the current proposals can be found at <a href="https://eastwestrail.co.uk/consultation2024">https://eastwestrail.co.uk/consultation2024</a></p> <p><b>Winter gritting</b></p> <p>At the time of writing this report (7-8 January), gritting vehicles are out on the roads several times a day, due to a cold weather spell. Here is a quick reminder about gritting on Cambridgeshire's roads. Cambridgeshire County Council's 37 gritting vehicles cover 44% of the county's road network. Cambridgeshire is split into three gritting areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fenland and East</li> <li>• Huntingdonshire and South</li> <li>• Cambridge</li> </ul> <p>Which roads are gritted and when will depend on forecast temperatures in each of these three areas, so there may be occasions when some parts of the county are gritted but not others. Roads on the gritting network are classified as primary or secondary routes. Primary routes are the priority for gritting, because they serve as major connecting routes for communities and allow people to get to work and access essential services. Secondary routes are gritted in addition to primary routes as and when resources allow when there is a forecast of a prolonged cold spell, where road surface temperatures fall below zero, or when snowfall is forecast. You can find which roads are primary or secondary gritting routes at <a href="https://maps.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/">https://maps.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/</a></p>
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**Additional Funds For Road Maintenance**

The Government has announced how much each council area will receive for highways capital maintenance for 2025/26. For the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough area it's £10 million, with a quarter of that amount to be held back until the respective councils have proved they will meet certain—still to be announced—criteria.

£10 million sounds a lot, but

- The Government may hold back twenty-five per cent of it
- It includes Peterborough as well as Cambridgeshire
- In Cambridgeshire alone the backlog of highways maintenance is around £600 million.

**FULL COUNCIL DECEMBER 2024 MOTIONS**

Two notable motions have been passed at the latest Full Council meeting in December 2024.

Being a 'trauma-informed' council

This motion was about those delivering council services needing to be aware of the effects of trauma on residents with whom they come into contact, and how to support trauma survivors.

As councillors many of us have experience of supporting families of children and young adults whose experience of our children services or adult social care has itself been traumatising. That point has been made during the Full council meeting: the council needs to improve its own practice and stop traumatising people.

Special educational needs and disabilities

This motion asked the council to respond to the Government's review of the school curriculum, making clear the importance of an appropriate curriculum for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities, and to gather information from secondary schools in the county on how they are ensuring they are able to meet the needs of all pupils.

It also asked the Children & Young People Committee to consider how the child and adolescent mental health system is working, and gather information about experience of special educational needs and disabilities in early years and primary school settings.

**Council budget**

Cambridgeshire County Council will set its budget on Tuesday 11 February, with recommendations being considered in advance by the Strategy Resources & Performance Committee on Tuesday 28 January.

Each year councils are required to set a balanced budget for the year ahead.

This has become more difficult in recent years for several reasons including

- Growing demand for services and increasing complexity of health and care needs
- Inflation
- Market failures in services such as provision for children in care, with high demand, insufficient supply, provider profiteering, and diminished council negotiating power.

The totality of the council's gross budget, including schools and services funded by specific grants, is expected to be over £1.1 billion for 2025-26. Of this, over half (£567 million) is proposed to be spent on children, education and families, and health and adult social care.

In December, councillors were told that efficiencies and savings or additional income of £34 million would be needed to set a balanced budget for 2025-26, and considered draft proposals to achieve this. However, the coming five years show an overall funding gap of £132 million, of which £73 million is not yet addressed.

**Urgent and emergency care**

2501/08	<p>The County Council’s Adults &amp; Health Committee received a report in December 2024 for their scrutiny on the performance of the NHS in urgent and emergency care. During 2024/25, performance has been below the planned trajectories submitted as part of the Integrated Care Board (ICB) operational plan, and below national standards.</p> <p>Two key national metrics for urgent and emergency care are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emergency departments should see and treat a minimum of 78 per cent of patients within four hours of arriving in the department by the end of March 2025</li> <li>• Patients categorised by the ambulance trust as Category 2 emergency should have an ambulance response time within 30 minutes.</li> </ul> <p>Both these targets remain behind plan, with the NHS under considerable pressure locally and nationally.</p> <p><b>Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) grant for income maximisation</b></p> <p>The County Council has agreed a grant of £800,000 over two years to Citizens Advice in the county for income maximisation. This is working with residents to ensure they are in receipt of all financial assistance they are eligible for, and helping people out of poverty across Cambridgeshire by providing a long-term solution to financial hardship.</p> <p><b>The future of the local government: Devolution White Paper</b></p> <p>Angela Rayner, Deputy PM and Secretary of State for Local Government, said government is “giving local leaders and communities the tools they need to deliver growth for their area” and it involves “a permanent shift of power away from Whitehall and into the hands of those who know their communities best (through) efficient and accountable local and regional government”.</p> <p>The Government will give elected mayors “new powers over housing, planning, transport, energy, skills, employment support and more, backed up with integrated and consolidated funding”.</p> <p>Local government reorganisation forms a key part of the White Paper published on 16 December.</p> <p>The Government view is that “unitary councils can lead to better outcomes for residents, save significant money which can be reinvested in public services, and improve accountability with fewer politicians who are more able to focus on delivering for residents”. So government will facilitate a programme of local government reorganisation for two-tier areas like Cambridgeshire and has invited proposals from Councils in these areas.</p> <p>It is anticipated that County Council elections in May this year will go ahead as planned but the District Council elections scheduled for 2026 are likely to be cancelled with a view to a new unitary council being formed by the merger of the councils, probably some time in 2027.</p> <p><b>Report from Babraham Research Campus (BRC) representative</b></p> <p>Chris Chapman apologised that the event that was due to be held in January had to be postponed, a new date will be decided upon and advertised.</p> <p>Church- 500 bulbs have been planted.</p> <p>The tree there will be trimmed.</p> <p>Rubbish was reported by the wall, this will be cleared away.</p> <p>The Church will continue to be supported by BRC.</p> <p>An environmental group, any monies raised to support local organisations eg the school, solar panels etc</p> <p>Tree work along the permissive paths is planned, there will be some closures of the footpath as required to keep public safe.</p> <p>Planting will be done in the woodland areas and some hedging put in.</p>
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	<p>The trout Trust will be coming back and work parties organised later in the year, some of the dog runs will be blocked off to preserve the banks.</p> <p>SL asked if a storage container could be sited on the Forest Garden and if so, could the teleporter be borrowed to put it in position. Clerk to find out if planning permission is needed.</p> <p>It was asked if the nettles could be removed from the kissing gates.</p>
<b>2501/09</b>	<b>Public participation time – 15 minutes allowed</b>
<b>2501/10</b>	<b>Village Hall- update.</b> Nothing to report.
<b>2501/11</b>	<b>Forest Garden Project.</b> This has now been mown completely and is looking very well.
<b>2501/12</b>	<b>Neighbourhood Plan-</b> nothing to report.
<b>2501/13</b>	<b>Bio Diversity Policy-</b> Under the 2021 Environment Act, public authorities (including town and parish councils) operating in England must consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity. Model template to be discussed and then adopted once approved.
<b>2501/14</b>	<b>Approve Budget and set Precept for 2025/2026</b> It was proposed by SL and seconded by DD that this stays the same- £14,000. All in agreement.
<b>2501/15</b>	<b>Updates from last meeting.</b>  Highways problems <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Footpath outside no 39- this has now been patched.</li> <li>• Turning right from the High St onto the A1307- Clerk has contacted Highways.</li> <li>• Cycle path to Abington- footpath renovations- Clerk has contacted Highways, this has been reassigned to Highways Maintenance</li> <li>• Speed bumps problems- Clerk has contacted Highways/contractor, nothing has been done yet. Clerk to send a letter to contractor asking for this to be done to a higher standard otherwise we will look at taking legal advice to get our money back, also to empower us to contact the Contractor and deal with them on behalf of Highways.</li> </ul> Other items: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Archive storage- Cllr Laurie was to make enquiries on a possible storage location- container in Forest Garden to be investigated.</li> <li>• Gate for area behind Forest Garden, this may not be necessary if the fence is removed to allow access.</li> </ul>
<b>2501/16</b>	<b>General Village Matters and new items for discussion:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>CSET-</b> Clerk to see if representatives can attend a PC meeting next year to discuss the latest developments. Matthew Punshon and Stephen Partridge-Hicks spoke about the alternative route proposed by Better Than Busway, this would be installing a bus route alongside the current A1307 and avoid cutting across the agricultural land. There was discussion about this route, pointing out that it would not be stopping at Sawston, Shelford and Trumpington.</li> <li>• <b>CSET -</b> to discuss whether to contribute to Better Busways. Better Busways is coordinating with Stapleford and Gt Shelford Parish Councils, Cambridge Past Present &amp; Future, the Magog Trust and Hobsons Conduit Trust. It is necessary that a legal team who can prepare the formal objection and also act for individual</li> </ul>

	<p>objectors is appointed urgently. Babraham PC was asked if it would like to support this group. BPC offered their full support to this and a sum of £100 was agreed to be donated towards the legal action. Individuals are also invited to support the campaign as well. More details here; <a href="https://www.bw4b.org/">https://www.bw4b.org/</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grit bin. It was agreed to buy a Grit bin to be located near the War Memorial</li> </ul>																						
2501/17	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>FINANCE</b></p> <p><b>Receipts and Transfers (as of 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 2024)</b></p>																						
2501/18	<p><b>Payments (as of 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 2024)</b></p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 30%;">Clerk</td> <td style="width: 40%;">Salary/Tax/Expenses-</td> <td style="width: 30%; text-align: right;"><b>confidential</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hugo Fox</td> <td>Website provider</td> <td style="text-align: right;"><b>£35.99</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Unity Trust bank</td> <td>Bank charges</td> <td style="text-align: right;"><b>£13.80</b></td> </tr> </table>	Clerk	Salary/Tax/Expenses-	<b>confidential</b>	Hugo Fox	Website provider	<b>£35.99</b>	Unity Trust bank	Bank charges	<b>£13.80</b>													
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2501/19	<p><b>A full list of payments was circulated and reviewed at the meeting, these were approved and invoices signed</b></p> <p><b>Balances and Bank Reconciliation at 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 2024</b></p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 70%;">Unity Current A/C balance</td> <td style="width: 30%; text-align: right;">£4,106.39</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Unity Savings A/C balance</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£140,512.57</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cambridge Building Society</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£81,900.13</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>TOTAL</b></td> <td style="text-align: right;"><b>£226,519.09</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"><b>Above total includes Reserves:</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>  <b>Sec 106/ Village Hall</b></td> <td style="text-align: right;">£143,179.24</td> </tr> <tr> <td>  <b>Public Art</b></td> <td style="text-align: right;">£ 18,207.55</td> </tr> <tr> <td>  <b>Playground</b></td> <td style="text-align: right;">£25,000.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>  <b>Forest Garden</b></td> <td style="text-align: right;">£1778.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>  <b>Total Reserved</b></td> <td style="text-align: right;"><b>£188,164.79</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>  <b>Total remaining for PC</b></td> <td style="text-align: right;"><b>£38,354.30</b></td> </tr> </table>	Unity Current A/C balance	£4,106.39	Unity Savings A/C balance	£140,512.57	Cambridge Building Society	£81,900.13	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£226,519.09</b>	<b>Above total includes Reserves:</b>		<b>Sec 106/ Village Hall</b>	£143,179.24	<b>Public Art</b>	£ 18,207.55	<b>Playground</b>	£25,000.00	<b>Forest Garden</b>	£1778.00	<b>Total Reserved</b>	<b>£188,164.79</b>	<b>Total remaining for PC</b>	<b>£38,354.30</b>
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2501/20	<p><b>PLANNING</b></p> <p>Applications received:</p> <p><b>Application by Kingsway Solar Farm Limited (the Applicant) for an Order granting Development Consent for Kingsway Solar Farm (the Proposed Development) Scoping consultation and notification of the Applicant’s contact details and duty to make available information to the Applicant if requested</b></p> <p>The Proposed Development is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP), as defined in the Planning Act 2008 (as amended). A summary of the NSIP planning process can be found at the following link:  <a href="https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/legislation-and-advice/advice-notes/advice-note-eight-overview-of-the-nationally-significant-infrastructure-planning-process-for-members-of-the-public-and-others/">https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/legislation-and-advice/advice-notes/advice-note-eight-overview-of-the-nationally-significant-infrastructure-planning-process-for-members-of-the-public-and-others/</a></p> <p>The Proposed Development is currently in the pre-application stage. The Planning Inspectorate has identified you as a consultation body which must be consulted before adopting its Scoping Opinion. The Planning Inspectorate would be grateful if you would:</p>																						

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>inform the Planning Inspectorate of the information you consider should be provided in the ES; or</li> <li>confirm that you do not have any comments.</li> </ul> <p>If you consider that you are not a consultation body as defined in the EIA Regulations please let us know.</p> <p>The deadline for consultation responses is <b>14 January 2025</b>.</p> <p>Responses to the Planning Inspectorate should be sent by email to:  <a href="mailto:KingswaySolar@planninginspectorate.gov.uk">KingswaySolar@planninginspectorate.gov.uk</a>.</p>
<b>2501/21</b>	<b>Planning decisions: none</b>
<b>2501/22</b>	<b>Correspondence.</b>
<b>2501/23</b>	<p><b>Items for inclusion in the next meeting</b></p> <p><b>Date of next meetings:</b> Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> Feb 2025 at 7.30pm</p> <p><b>Part II: Confidential Information</b></p>
<b>2501/24</b>	<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>      <b>14<sup>th</sup> Jan 2025</b>  10 Duxford Road, Hinxton, Saffron Walden, Essex, CB10 1RB  01799 531827</p>