

Bourn Parish Council

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

On

Wednesday 24th May at 7.00pm @ Bourn Village Hall.

25/05/2023

Minutes

1. Chairman's Report.

It's been a busy year since our last Parish Council AGM. We've had three prime ministers and two monarchs since then.

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee event - appropriately held on the Jubilee Playing Field - was perhaps the highlight of the year. It was wonderful to see so many residents turn out to honour the queen, who sadly passed away last September. A big THANK YOU to Cllrs. Basil Jacques, Helen Heginbotham, and Sarah Jaggars - as well as all the those who ran stalls and helped on the day.

The Parish Council remains on a sound finance footing, and we were pleased not to have to raise our Parish precept in the face of rising costs caused by the recent inflation surge. This last year saw several changes in the village.

- The Parish Council secured a 20mph speed limit in the center of the village and additional speed bumps on Alms Hill. Traffic management remains a priority for the Parish Council in the coming year. We are hoping that the village SpeedWatch Group will soon recommence their activities after the COVID hiatus.
- We are continuing with our tree planting programme. In the last year volunteers have planted Rowan trees on Gill's Hill, Chestnuts beside the Broadway Play Area, and a community orchard alongside the Hall Close Playground (as part of the District Council's Doubling Nature Project).
- Plans to re-imagine the Sports Pavilion as a multi-use village facility are taking shape following a review of your responses to the village-wide survey on the future of the building. Look out for updates over the summer.

East West Rail

Following the publication of the Government's Spring Budget, this month should see an announcement from East West Rail on the precise route that the line will take into South Cambridge Station – including, we hope, some certainty on the location of the proposed station at Cambourne. The Parish Council have expressed a preference for a station north of Cambourne as this will mean that the line will not cut across Broadway.

Bourn Airfield

The Parish Council continues to be heavily involved in the Community Forum set up for West Cambourne and Bourn Airfield. Formerly known as the A428 Development Cluster Forum, this forum is an opportunity for residents to engage with the plans for the 2 new developments. Frustratingly, to date, the Forum meetings have been virtual and, therefore, a little limited in their capacity to fully engage. The Parish Council are hoping that later meetings will be held in person. West Cambourne is quickly taking shape and many of you will have seen its progress if you use the Caxton Bypass. There's no precise date for the delivery of the first houses on Bourn Airfield but we expect work to start next year. We have helped negotiate a footpath/cycle route down Broadway with details yet to be finalised. Our hope is that residents of the new development will be encouraged to visit Bourn village on foot, or bike.

Cambourne to Cambridge

The C2C route has also been finalised. The decision is to build a new off-road section south of Madingley Road and north of Coton. The route has proved to be enormously divisive, and I expect it will continue to cause concern - particularly for residents in Hardwick and Coton. Delivery of the busway is central to the Greater Cambridge Partnership and District Council's plans for the delivery of the whole of Bourn Airfield - which is limited to 500 houses until the busway is delivered.

Luton Flight Path changes

Another contentious development that will increasingly affect the village was the decision to redirect aircraft flying into Luton over Bourn and the surrounding villages. I'd like to acknowledge the work that resident, Ben Strutt, has done to raise awareness of the impact this change in aircraft approach to Luton Airport will have on Bourn village.

To keep up to date with all of the Parish Council and village news please visit www.bourn.org.uk and sign up to receive the latest news and notifications.

2. Report from Bourn Primary School.

The school currently has 207 children on roll and maintains 7 classes. Many children come from the catchment villages of Bourn, Kingston, Caxton and Longstow but there are also a proportion from out of catchment, which ensures sufficient funding to maintain 7 classes. The challenges of running a school in the current climate are significant, with costs of staffing, energy, and even everyday supplies such as paper increasing significantly more than our funding is increasing.

Outcomes are good, with children achieving above national averages at the end of Key Stage 2 SATS. We continue to implement and refine our revised curriculum, which has a strong local emphasis, eg learning about Bourn Windmill in history and measuring the depth of Bourn Brook in geography.

Our Book Bus is now fully operational, and the children use it weekly, with Little Hands also visiting regularly. Thank you to the Parish Council and other residents and businesses who made contributions.

Links with the Church remain strong. The vicar takes Collective Worship every week, and we have school services in the Church every half term, as well as special services for Harvest, Christmas, and Easter. The vicar also helps me run the weekly 'Happy Sad Club' which supports children who are having emotional difficulties.

Ely Diocese ran a competition for schools to design a scene in the life of St Etheldreda, which would be embroidered into a panel to be displayed in Ely Cathedral. Our design won and the panel will be unveiled in a special service in the Cathedral in June.

We are making links with Wysing Arts Centre and are planning collaborative projects with them over the next year.

The school now also has a Food Bank collection, which is collected and taken to local foodbanks.

As a result of working more closely with Bourn Parish Council, we have been able to make great links with the Bourn Allotment Society and the Bourn Gardening Club. Julie Dore has led the lunchtime Gardening Club, with different people helping and we now have vegetables and flowers growing in our raised beds.

We have also worked hard to improve the road safety and parking in the immediate area around the school, with Year 5 traffic monitoring and the use of cones to prevent parking on yellow lines.

We look forward to continuing to develop links in the local community and to giving our children the best educational experience possible at Bourn Primary.

3. Report from Cambridgeshire County Council.

No Report Received.

4. Report from South Cambridgeshire District Council.

1. Introduction

I want to thank all the Parish Councils for their support throughout the past municipal year as life resumed some semblance of normalcy after the Coronavirus (Covid19). This report covers the last 12 months of activities by the District Council and Councillors which I hope will be useful for you.

2. Governance

District Council – The District Council is in LibDem administration. Following two by-elections comprises 36 LibDems, 9 Conservatives and 1 Independent councillor.

We continued to build upon our ambitious 5-year business plan for 2019 to 2024 in the four key priority areas we identified:

- **Growing local businesses and economies** – We will support businesses of all sizes, to help create new jobs and opportunities near to where people live.
- **Housing that is affordable for everyone to live in** – We will build vibrant communities in locations where people have good access to facilities and transport links, so they can genuinely afford to lead a happy and healthy life.
- **Being green to our core** – We will create a cleaner, greener and zero-carbon future for our communities.
- **A modern and caring Council** – We will provide our customers with high-quality services, strive to reduce costs, build on what we are good at to generate our own income and make decisions in a transparent, open, and inclusive way.

3. Housing and Planning

Housing

Following are some of our achievements on housing issues:

- Delivered 88 new affordable homes (acquired and/or built). Prior to 2018 when we came into administration, delivery was 30 or less per year.
- Produced an Asset Management Plan. This will improve the energy efficiency of existing Council housing to reduce carbon impact and running costs.
- Implemented new maintenance contract for all council housing stock. This should improve the service that Council tenants receive.
- Adopted an Empty Homes Strategy to enable empty homes be brought back into use.

- We have installed solar Photovoltaic Systems on 60 Properties. Actions on target to be completed 2022-23.
- We continue to support the liaison meetings in Cottenham, Sawston, Hardwick, Caldecote (which I chair), Swavesey and Barrington. Also supported and community forums in Northstowe, Waterbeach, North-West Cambridge, Cambridge East, North-East Cambridge and Bourn Airfield and Cambourne (which I chair).
- Approved a work programme for insulation measures over the next four years to narrow the gap on the zero-carbon target.

Homes for Ukraine

- Very active in the local administration of the government's Home for Ukraine scheme.
- We have issued a weekly community update for hosts and, recently, one for guests
- South Cambridgeshire has remained one of the local authorities with the highest number of Ukrainian arrivals showing high level of hospitality in the district.
- As of year ending March 2023, 408 hosts have welcomed 787 Ukrainian guests into their homes, 914 DBS checks have been completed and 405 welfare visits made.
- We are helping some to find a new host, apply for social housing, or to rent privately.
- The council is still looking for potential hosts, so those who can help, please contact duty.communities@scams.gov.uk

Planning

- We continue the work on the joint local plan with Cambridge City that will determine how our district is developed over the period 2020-2041.
- Produced First Proposals in 2021 for the emerging plan identifying jobs/housing needs, proposed new sites to build on and new policies. It proposed for both Councils areas adding 11,640 to those in current local plan, on 19 new sites and only 384 homes proposed to be in 5 villages. There are already 33,500 allocated in current adopted local plans 2018 for the period 2011-2031.
- In 2022, we produced a report assessing feedback provided by local people from The First Proposals. This is informing the next steps in the Local Plan process as discussed in a series of 5 meetings of the Joint Local Plan Advisory Committee which I chair.
- We continue to monitor the economic growth in Greater Cambridge, and this year reported the update on jobs growth and housing need require additional 8,000 homes. But emphasised that the needs cannot be met unless the water supply issue is resolved by Cambridge Water and Anglian Water. So, no further sites have yet been identified beyond what was in the First Proposals
- We adopted three (3) more Neighbourhood plans giving the communities a say in how their area grows in future, bringing total so far to eight (8).
- We have adopted a new joint Compliance Policy (formerly Enforcement) and created e-form for reporting potential planning breaches.
- The Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service (GCSPS) has been commended finalists and won industry awards, including for Community Engagement and Youth Engagement. The GCSPS also won £250K from Government to further develop our online community engagement process.
- The joint Five Year Housing Land Supply with Cambridge City is 6.2 years. Housing trajectory shows house building going well and more anticipated to be delivered than set in the local plan 2018 for the period 2011 to 2031.

4. Growing local businesses and economies

The economy of South Cambs is dependent on small businesses, so

- We implemented a new and improved policy to support the street trading sector across South Cambridgeshire. This policy will ensure high levels of safety compliance and enable the sector to thrive through the introduction of flexible trading models.
- Supported some existing markets to grow and helped to set up new street markets for example in Northstowe;
- Created an SCDC specific operational/implementation plan based on the Nov 2021 refreshed Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA) Employment and Skill Strategy.
- Provided business support advice to over 100 businesses.
- Completed a feasibility study looking at how South Cambs Hall could be used to provide workspace for businesses, including start-ups.
- Established an up-to-date list of Business Premises for start-ups.

5. A Modern and Caring Council

Being a modern council means we have had to do a lot of work to bring databases and processes up to date and continue to transform how the council works to meet with the times.

- Complete and analyse a staff satisfaction survey.
- Introduced hybrid working arrangements further increasing our attractiveness as an employer.
- Introduced a modular management skills program for middle managers.
- Completed a survey of all council tenants to better understand their priorities and to be able to compare satisfaction with other organisations.
- Refresh caravan site licencing policy, fees, and charges. The new policy will ensure that caravan sites are inspected periodically and that residents have suitable housing provision. Actions on target to be completed 2022-23:
- Use the Council's Community Led Plan toolkit to support local communities identify, plan, and address the issues they identify in their communities.
- Support 150 new clients through the housing department's visiting support service.
- Spend £500,000 in total in the form of disabled facilities grant and repairs grant to allow people to live independently and safely in their homes.
- Prevent homelessness for at least 50% of the people who approach us who are at risk of becoming homeless throughout the year and offer support to those who are homeless.
- Continue the proactive working relationship with the job centre in delivering mentoring circles plus upskilling and cross training initiatives throughout the year.
- 100% compliance with landlord safety checks to council housing including, electrical safety, gas installations and where appropriate fire risk assessments and water safety tests.

Cost of Living support

The cost-of-living crisis affects everyone and SCDC has been supporting residents through the winter.

- We supplied more than 300 residents who are 'just about managing' with free electric blankets and slow cookers - low-cost methods of staying warm and cooking food.
- Extra funding was provided to support an extra 100 eligible families with housing costs through Discretionary Housing Payments, Discretionary Council Tax discounts and a Warm Hubs programme.
- A further £200,000 has recently been allocated for further support.
- Amongst other initiatives, a series of roadshows are planned, giving cost-of-living talks designed to highlight the support available to the most vulnerable.

- We plan to evolve the successful Warm Hubs into Community Wellbeing Hubs, offering more services.

Financial Accounts

- We updated the system for use in recording the Council's accounts (from spreadsheets we inherited in 2018)
- We introduced a single data base system for the councils register of assets (from the spreadsheets we inherited)
- As the council had not met its audit targets for the preceding four years in 2018, upgrading we had to do took time and effort, but great progress now.
- Approved accounts for 2019/20 are awaiting audit by the Auditors and for 2020/21 have been finished waiting for the 2019/20 to be signed off by EY. Work has started on 2021/22, but we paused till two previous accounts get signed off.

6. Green To Our Core

The achievements include but are not limited to

- Provided equipment and information kits to minimise waste and separate recycling at community events.
- Reviewed the impact and outcomes of the existing food waste collection trial and the future of the scheme including budget requirements.
- 2 electric refuse collection vehicles to replace the diesel versions have been received. • Annual Statutory Status report for air quality has been submitted to DEFRA and accepted. Actions on target to be completed 2022-23:
- Review community rooms and other small sites to identify and deliver opportunities for carbon reduction.
- Develop planning policies consistent with zero carbon by 2050 for adoption in the Greater Cambridge Local Plan, in partnership with Cambridge City Council.
- Identify and deliver opportunities to invest in publicly accessible electric vehicle charge points in priority locations in the district, working with partners - pilot installations of fast EV Chargers at Sheltered Housing Schemes for public use, and install one rapid charger for public use.
- Identify and deliver new opportunities to plant trees, establish wildflower strips and in other ways enhance nature on our own estate, in consultation with residents.
- Work to ensure that development in South Cambridgeshire contributes to the goal of doubling nature by developing planning policies for adoption in the Greater Cambridge Local Plan, and by adopting a new Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document in partnership with Cambridge City Council.
- Work with partners to develop landscape-scale habitat creation projects.
- Deliver '6 Free Trees' initiative to increase the amount of tree cover of parish council land, enhancing biodiversity and carbon capture.
- Define and implement required improvements at the depot to prepare for further electric refuse collection vehicle (eRCV) charging. Page 94 Appendix A: Draft 2023-24 Business Plan Action Plan

We are going to

- Install solar-powered EV charging at our Waterbeach depot
- Install EV charging at South Cambs Hall and in sheltered housing schemes.

7. Community Issues

I continue to assist residents with issues either as individuals or a community group on issues including housing, planning, waste collection, benefits, grants application support.

Luton Airport Airspace Deployment AD6

I continue to assist residents who are being affected by the AD6 flight path changes.

- I support RELAS campaign group
- I was interviewed on BBC Radio Cambridgeshire in July 2022 and you can read about it on my blog at <https://bit.ly/AD6onBBCRad>.
- The SCDC Leader Cllr Smith secured quarterly meetings with Luton Airport for updates
- I also met with and chaired a meeting with Head of Luton Airport Operation – Noise enquiries, a Community Noise Executive - LLA Noise Enquiries together with two co-founders of RELAS in mid August.
- I also supported the RELAS public meeting held in February which had record attendance.
- The Post Implementation Review (PIR) period has now been extended by 3 months from May to end of September 2023
- I encourage those being disturbed to continue to complain to Luton during this post implementation period (PIR) and join the RELAS facebook group, or offer any expertise they have to the campaign. It is very important because Luton Airport have a separate Development Consent Order planning application with the Planning Inspectorate. They want to expand capacity from 18million to 32 million passengers per year. If AD6 is permanent, the airspace over our villages will become very noisy.

5. Report from Bourn Village Hall.

No report received.

6. Report from Bourn Church.

No report received.

7. Report from the Sports Club.

2022-23 has been a year of change for the club.

Longstanding committee members Giles Nelson, Joy Naylor and Lottie Phillips all stood down. Gill Pountain has been there from the start in 2000 and Matt Gregory is now chairman (and secretary!) and Claire Jackson is treasurer and Gill is Membership Secretary. Tennis has always been the main activity of the Club, with an emphasis on children's coaching, in line with our Charitable status, aimed at providing activities for children and young people. To bring more villagers into the Club and increase sports provision in the village, we have moved to a two-tier membership structure, with lower cost non-tennis membership alongside the standard full membership including unlimited use of the tennis courts. We have introduced Table Tennis, Netball, Running, Football, and we hope to add Cricket and Rounders.

Highlights in the last year have included the Jubilee Event, at which the Sports Club made a key contribution running the sports events and the BBQ, Bourn to Run which, whilst not run by us, was ably supported by a team of BSC committee members and club members, the Annual Quiz, and a bring-and-buy cake sale in aid of DEC Ukraine. (Having been replaced by the Jubilee Event in 2022, the usual Annual Sports Day will be back this summer.)

Tennis activities continue, with coaching from Emma Gallagher and Gill Pountain, and internal competition in the form of 10&U Boys & Girls, 14&U Boys & Girls cups, plus the historic mixed doubles trophy. We also enter teams in local junior and adult leagues and there are weekly social doubles groups for ladies and men. Most players are members of the Club, but we do offer casual pay-and-play access to the courts for non-members.

We have also managed to keep investing in the sporting infrastructure, with new tennis lighting installed and the replacement of the cricket nets. The tennis lighting was achieved with a landfill grant from Mick George, obtained with the help of Cambs LTA, and the PC was very helpful in processing the grant application for us. Sports Club also obtained a Community Chest grant from S Cambs DC towards the lights.

An agreement was signed to hand back management of the pavilion to the Parish Council from 2025. There is a great opportunity for the PC to update and expand the capability of this well-situated building and make it more available to the local community. We look forward to continuing working with the PC to enable this, and for the Sports Club to continue making its home there for many years to come. At the same time, it was also agreed that the Sports Club should continue management of the Tennis Courts: we look forward to finalising a formal agreement to confirm this.

Gill Pountain

Matt Gregory

Bourn Sports Club

May 2023

8. Report from Merry Bourn.

No report received.

9. Report from the Allotment Society.

Gill Pountain advised Julie Dore is the secretary for Bourn Allotment Society, she also advised there are 10 allotments and are all occupied.

10. Open discussion for residents to raise any issues / ideas.

Nothing to report.