

ICKLETON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Held on Tuesday 2nd May 2023 in the Gordon Woolhouse Meeting Room, Ickleton Village Hall.

Present: Parish Council Chair - Sian Wombwell, **Parish Council Clerk** - Leanne Smith, **District and County Councillor** - Peter McDonald, Caroline Foster & Varsha Patel – Urban & Civic, **18 Electors**

1 Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the electors to the meeting.

Apologies from:

Glynis Hammond – Neighbourhood Watch

Rachel Radford – Ickleton Society

Nick Thompson – Allotment Association

Edmund Harcourt - Ickleton Cricket Club

2 To approve minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held on 4th May 2022

It was resolved that the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 4th May 2022 are approved and signed by the Chair.

3 Report from the Chair of the Parish Council

See Appendix A.

A Parishioner asked if broadband will be extended to the far end of Grange Road. Cllr Wombwell explained that the location is served by the Royston exchange.

4 Report from District and County Councillor

See Appendix B. Presentation by District and County Councillor Peter McDonald.

A Parishioner asked if claims are made for damage caused by potholes. Cllr McDonald stated that they are. This can be done through the County Council website. Last year nearly £1 million was paid to claimants.

A Parishioner asked who carries out pothole repairs. Cllr McDonald stated that contractors are used.

A Parishioner asked who has oversight of the quality of pothole repairs. Cllr McDonald stated that the Local Highways Officer will look at some repairs and the use of scanning equipment is used for others.

A Parishioner asked what proportion of the budget is allocated to education. Cllr McDonald stated that around £150 million is allocated to education for the county. The rebuild at Duxford school has cost £7 million. Of this £4 million has come from insurance and the rest from the County Council to expand the school.

A Parishioner asked if the condition of SCDC social housing is monitored. Cllr McDonald stated that monitoring is an exception rather than a rule and is undertaken if problems are suspected.

Cllr Sian Wombwell asked for feedback on the SCDC four-day working week. Cllr McDonald stated that the trial has been extended. Bin collectors could begin a four-day week trial in the summer. Cllr Sian Wombwell also asked what proportion of staff are still working from home. Cllr McDonald stated about fifty per cent. Steps are being made to encourage staff back to the office.

A Parishioner asked for the current telephone response time at SCDC. Cllr McDonald stated that during the last quarter it was within a couple of minutes.

A Parishioner asked when the Local Highways Initiative applications will be decided. Cllr McDonald stated that the panel meetings will be held this month and decisions announced by September.

5 To receive reports requested from:

- **Urban and Civic – Wellcome Genome Campus expansion**

Presentation by Caroline Foster and Varsha Patel.

Work completed

Landscaping – 920 trees have been re-located and 1169 new trees planted. Landscaping to 7.4 acres of land on the current site.

The archaeological dig has finished.

A1031 improvement works

A briefing regarding A1301 improvements will be given in the summer. There are some works planned before then to create construction access. Further information will be disseminated in due course. Proposals for a traffic survey in Ickleton will be shared in the next few months.

Design guide

The next big phase of the development will be the Design Guide and planning applications will be submitted in due course.

A Parishioner asked what medical provision there will be on the new development. Caroline Foster stated that the existing facility is Sawston will be used. A section 106 contribution has been agreed. Hospital provision has not been considered.

A Parishioner asked what additional measures have been considered to improve the A1301 beyond widening the road and installing roundabouts. Caroline Foster stated that pedestrian bridges will reduce disruption to the road. There will also be improvements at the A1301/A505 roundabout. Improvements will be made before housing is occupied.

A Parishioner asked what consideration has been given to drainage on the development. Caroline Foster stated that the drainage will be sustainable and information will be given in the Design Guide.

A Parishioner noted that no assessment was made about the displacement of traffic through Ickleton when the outline planning application was submitted.

- **Village Hall Management Committee**

See Appendix C. Report by Madelaine Smith.

- **Speedwatch**

Report by Terry Sadler.

Members of Cambridgeshire Constabulary Safer Speeds Team have recently hand delivered a third warning letter to several speeding motorists.

Ickleton Speedwatch is one of the two most active groups in the County along with Wisbech.

Traffic numbers have doubled over the last few months since the end of last year.

- **Ickleton Society**

Report read by Madelaine Smith on behalf of Rachel Radford.

The Society has hosted a variety of events over the last year - The Annual General Meeting, Jubilee celebrations, exhibitions, Talking Heads, wine tasting, regular walks, New Year and Easter walks.

The Society has monitored planning applications closely including, Boro Farm Aggregate site; Wellcome Genome development and Icknield Fields development in Gt Chesterford.

The Society continues to receive contributions for the village archives.

Andrew Shepherd has created an Ickleton timeline on the village website.

The Annual General Meeting will take place on the 25th of May 2023 at 7.30pm. Ken McDonald from The Hundred Parishes Society will be attending.

- **Ickleton Allotment Association**

Report by Vice Chair Ben Earley.

Changes

Trevor Barwood stepped down and was replaced by Nick Thompson as Chair.

A small orchard of 24 fruit trees has recently been planted.

Successes

The allotment currently has full membership and one on the waiting list

Last years autumn show was a huge success.

Events

A hand grenade was spotted in the soil at the allotments last week. The police were advised and the Explosive Ordnance Disposal Team safely detonated the grenade.

- **St Mary Magdalene Church**

No report received.

- **Froglets**

Report read by the Parish Clerk on behalf of Anne-Marie Hoare. See Appendix D.

- **Ickleton Cricket Club**

Report read by Cllr Sian Wombwell on behalf of Edmund Harcourt. See Appendix E.

- **Neighbourhood Watch**

Report read by the Parish Clerk on behalf of Glynis Hammond. See Appendix F.

- **Age UK Community Warden**

No report received. The Clerk briefly spoke about the Warden Scheme.

6 **Open Forum**

- A Parishioner reported that traffic on Butchers Hill continues to be problematic, having reported this at last year's Annual Parish Meeting. The Parish Council has previously made enquiries with Highways regarding widening the pathway and installing bollards, and was successful in getting raised white lines marked on the highway. Representatives from Urban & Civic have made reference to assessing traffic in the parish and may be able to assist in remodelling the existing infrastructure.
- A Parishioner noted that the recently planted oak tree on the recreation field has been planted too close to the hedging and that the hedging needs to be cut back. ACTION – Parish Clerk to arrange for it to be cut.
- A Parishioner noted that the Social Club is well attended and is one of very few cross generational activities in the parish.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm

Appendix A – Report from the Chair of the Parish Council

Finance:

The Parish has requested an increase in the precept to £29,500.

Copies of the draft financial statements are available on request from the Clerk, and will be published on the Parish Council website.

There have been some changes at Parish Council. Hugh Molloy and Liz Gibson left to pursue other interests, Lucy Davidson returned, and we welcomed Edmund Harcourt and William Wombwell as new councillors.

There have been some notable events and achievements in the village during the last 12 months.

The late Queen's Platinum Jubilee was celebrated in fine style with a variety of events, all of which were well supported. I thank all those who were involved in organising and running things. A great team effort which was appreciated by all.

Ickleton Open Gardens has gone from strength to strength, with more gardens featuring every time. This year, some of the monies raised was donated to the Village Hall to help fund the installation of solar panels. This project has now been completed, with extra support coming from Parish Council and the Zero Carbon Communities Grant. A really good, green initiative.

The Village Hall also installed WiFi which makes a big difference.

Our thanks go to Martin Woodhead, Richard Herbert and the super-fast broadband team for doggedly pursuing the broadband project. The village is now connected, a terrific effort and a brilliant result. I am sure everyone is grateful for their efforts on our behalf.

The Parish Council has recently planted 3 commemorative trees. An oak in memory of the late Queen, and 2 ornamental pear trees in memory of Marley Hoare and Georgina Owens. We intend to continue the planting with a tree to commemorate the Coronation of King Charles.

The Parish Council is replacing the wooden gates at the churchyard. The old ones were worn out and did not enhance the beauty of our grade 1 listed church. We are very grateful to The Hundred Parishes for a generous contribution to the cost of the new gates, and hope they will last for a hundred years!

Our application last year to the Local Highways Initiative was unsuccessful. We were disappointed because the project, to install "gates" at the beginning of the village on Frogge Street and Coploe Road, and to extend the 30-mph limit further up Coploe Road, was clearly aiming to slow down traffic entering the village, and to improve pedestrian safety, particularly for pedestrians going to the allotments. We have submitted the same LHI bid this year and hope for success.

The increase in traffic generally, and the marked increase in rat running through the village continues to be a major concern. As more houses are built in Gt. Chesterford, and as the Wellcome Campus build out progresses, we anticipate the problems will only get worse. The Speedwatch team have proved very effective at slowing down traffic, and we thank them for their dedication to the cause. They are out in all weathers, and are sometimes on the receiving end of unwarranted, unpleasant verbal abuse.

One of the effects of increased traffic and rat running is the damage to the narrow roads, in fact, the total collapse of sections of Royston Lane and Duxford Road, and the appearance of deep potholes in every road through the village. The District Councillor's report last year stated that Highways would "invest more in road maintenance, gully clearance, and work on ways to limit rat running and make the option of 20 mph zones easier to obtain." The Parish Council see no evidence of this. Dangerous potholes and degraded sections of road are constantly reported but there is no action. Any superficial repairs are inadequate and quickly rendered useless because they are not carried out to the required standard. Spray painting around the potholes does not constitute a repair. This is a source of constant frustration, and there is little to suggest the situation will improve.

As I am sure parishioners are aware of the illegal activities at the Boro Farm aggregate recycling facility at Gt. Chesterford. Parish Council have devoted a lot of time and energy responding to planning applications and appeals from Norwood Construction, as have local residents who have responded in great numbers. It is rare to get such a high level of engagement from the public, and, on behalf of the Parish Council, I thank all who wrote and emailed ECC. The planning and appeals processes are continuing, but we do not expect a quick resolution.

The other major planning consideration is the expansion of the Wellcome Genome Campus. Work has now commenced, and I am pleased that Caroline Foster from Urban and Civic is able to join us and give a brief overview of the expected timelines for the different phases of the development.

I would like to thank all Parish councillors for their interest and enthusiasm, and particularly Councillor Terry Sadler for his diligence and expertise in responding to planning applications and consultations on behalf of the Parish Council and the village.

May I also thank everyone who gives their time and expertise to keep the village and recreation ground looking so good, and the village amenities running smoothly. We are grateful to all, especially Charles Frankau and Dominic Pallett, John Williams, Hilary Rule and the Icene team, Madeline Smith and the village hall team, Clare Driver, Glynis Hammond and many others who do so much for Ickleton and the residents.

Appendix B – Presentation by District and County Councillor Peter McDonald

South Cambs District Council:

Key changes

- Fifth year of New Administration in the Council from May 2018
- 45 Councillors instead of 57
- Homes for Ukraine – over 500 homes found for Ukrainian guests
- £600k for Cost of living support including warm hubs, slow cookers etc
- Having doubled the number of new Council homes built from 35 in 2019/20 to 70 in 2021/22, the new target is for at least 75 new energy-efficient Council homes to be delivered every year.
- During the next two years, more than £2 million has been allocated to continue to upgrade existing housing stock, as part of continuing carbon reduction efforts.
- £20k funding for electric charging points eg at village halls.

Finances

- SCDC takes c.£165 of the £1,500 of Band D Council Tax.
- Council Tax Increased this year by 3.5% or £5 to £165.
- Correcting a deficit of £500k in 2019/20
- Councillor expenses 4% but staff increases for lower paid by fixed amount.
- c.10% lower paid & 1% for higher paid
- SCDC still looking to generate 25% of income from investments (to protect Council & residents)
- County C Tax Increased by £73 or 4,99%.

5-year Business Plan

South Cambs receives no Government grant. Savings planned of £1.5m next few years. Continued efforts to reduce fly-tipping at hotspots through cameras, and promptly investigating reports of rubbish being dumped. A new Mobile Warden scheme, to help keep older people living independently in their homes for longer, for the years ahead

Business support targets include: The promotion of local businesses, as well tailored support and resources and identifying funding opportunities. Supporting start-ups and small businesses to grow – such as providing space for them at the Council's Cambourne office. Continuing to help establish and support local markets across South Cambridgeshire.

Services, Business Plan and Business support

- My South Cambs Portal & Call Back service to increase customer service. Single Golden number for enquires and new call back service.
- Improving planning with new shared service and IT platform.
- Higher number of planning delegations, previously <5%, now c 25%-30%
- Re structure of the Council Management. New CEO & New officer structure.
- Business Plan Focus
- Call for Sites Process - Engaged with residents/Parishes and focus on carbon & water resources.
- New 6.1 yr housing land supply - prevents speculative development which happened pre-2018.
- New Business Support - 4 new staff. Focus on SME < 10 employees. Focused on the business growth/expansion. New Visit South Cambs Website.

Priorities

1. Monitor & influence planning projects. Influence the local plan process/call for sites.

Monitor the 5-year housing land supply. Work with villages on Wellcome Genome Campus development & housing covenants. Sustainable development in the villages.

2. Keep residents up to date. Monthly report for every Parish. Facebook & Twitter. Focus leaflets – 8-10x since Election in 2018.

3. Carry out effective case work on Planning, Housing and Highways

4. Represent my villages for grant support- total grants in 2022/23 - Community chest £58k, Community led £50k, Biodiversity £10k, zero carbon Grants £120k

6. Work effectively on Cabinet - Business Support responsibility

Cambridgeshire County Council:

Budget 2023/24

The budget seeks to bridge a potential funding gap for the coming year of £21.4m, even after finding more than £10m of additional savings or income, in the face of levels of inflation not seen for 40 years plus rising costs for energy and essential services. The budget includes:

- £1m to continue free school meal vouchers for eligible children,
- £1m into highways schemes including rural roads drainage,
- £1m investment into flood mitigation,
- more than £1.3m into libraries,
- £380k investment in community services.

Balanced budget for 2023/24 through a mix of savings, use of one-off reserves, and the generation of additional income including a council tax rise for the coming year to 4.99% comprising 2.99% C Tax and 2% Adults social care.

This would see band D properties in the county paying an additional £73 per year, although more than half (64%) of county lives in homes rated band C or below and would see rises of between £49 and £65 per year.

Other Areas:

This Land - A full review has been done and the Board re structured in the County Council property company which has been loaned £120m.

5-year plan

Over the next five years, additional improvements the business plan looks to deliver include.

- £122m for new primary school places
- £164m for new secondary school places
- £13.3m investment into converting streetlights to LED, delivering both environmental and financial benefits

- £2.5m into a new highways materials recycling operation
- A £7.2m upgrade to the March and Milton Household recycling

Priorities

1. Two committees: Highways and County Farms Group
2. Highways Matters

Potholes!

20 mph zone policy being progressed for 2023-2025

Civil Parking Enforcement being progressed for 2023

Scanning of the highways initiated to get a proper view of the priorities.

New gulley scanning & cleaning programme initiated

3. Infrastructure - A505 plan for next 10 years, Foxton & Whittlesford Travel Hubs, ensuring these are multi-modal hubs with benefits for the community.

4. School support - Duxford school re-build, supporting Foxton on the pre-school provision.

5. Represent you on County Farms - Currently 33,000 acres, Environmental Land Management, Tree planting, new farm acquisition.

Appendix C – Report from Village Hall

We are pleased to report that hall usage is now back to full strength, with several new daytime courses since last year and a number of parties and events having taken place, including last June's Jubilee Celebrations. The main hall and entrance area have been redecorated, the toilet areas all refurbished and redecorated, together with new flooring, including in the changing rooms. This has meant a dip into our reserves but is necessary to keep the hall up to date and our finances remain strong overall.

Public wifi has finally been installed but may need upgrading for improved management purposes.

With help from a substantial Zero Carbon Communities grant and support from the Parish Council, for which we are most grateful, we were able to install solar panels in February and hope to be self-sufficient in electricity. Unfortunately the heating for the hall is by gas.

We aim to continue to maintain and improve the hall and its facilities for the use of the community and I am grateful to the trustees for their continued support.

Appendix D – Report from Froglets

Froglets is becoming more popular again, it's been down on numbers since covid. This year marks 30 years for me running it on and off and as the families swell, then the kids go to school and new families and volunteers arrive, I continue to run it as I have seen how important it is for the community. It's a welcome start to the week, a safe place where the children can play and the parents and carers have a cup of tea, share experiences and parenting ideas. This year we have had a few Ukraine families attend, the children love it and the parents have found respite in their difficult situations. Thank you to the village hall committee for helping us out financially until we got back on our feet.

Appendix E – Report from Ickleton Cricket Club

The 2023 season has started, with the club fielding 2 teams on both Wednesdays and Saturdays. The teams are open to men and women of all ages.

2022 saw all teams perform well with the Saturday 2nd XI getting promotion for the first time since they inaugurated. We have a record number of entrants to our youth cricket training sessions (held on a Thursday evening) with over 60 young people attending.

The cricket playing area suffered heavily in the 2022 summer and following winter, but despite recent deluges, we have managed to create a decent playing surface and the outfield continues to improve. The club is grateful to the Parish Council for arranging the weed killing.

The club is in the process of creating a development plan: the key elements of this are likely to include a bigger and better youth cricket training programme, more opportunities for women to play cricket, moving of the basketball court, the replacement of some ageing equipment and enhanced practice facilities (which are already underway)

The club continues to have challenges, the most significant being getting enough volunteers to cover the various work that needs to be done to keep the club running. This includes ground work as well as administrative work.

We continue to work closely with the Village Hall and the Social Club and we are actively seeking ways to engage more with the wider community. We are grateful for the continue support from the Parish Council, not least the contribution made to get the ball stop up in time for the beginning of the season.

Edmund Harcourt
Chairman
On behalf of Ickleton Cricket Club

Appendix F – Report from Neighbourhood Watch

Report for Neighbour Watch May 2023

Neighbourhood Watch is about local people working together to create safer places to live and where crime and anti-social behaviour are less likely to happen. Glynis Hammond is the co-ordinator for Ickleton - glynis.hammond@googlemail.com

Whilst, we know that crime in Ickleton and the surrounding area is low, it is important for all of us to be vigilant and report suspicious behaviour. If you have any concerns or need to report suspicious behaviour what is the right number to call when seeking Police assistance?

Call 999: For serious emergencies in which human life and limb are deemed to be at risk, or when a crime (this includes antisocial behaviour or act of vandalism) is actually in progress or has just happened and those responsible are believed to be still in the vicinity. It is appreciated that many occurrences may fall into this description and situations may change very quickly. But if, in your opinion the above definition fits – call 999.

Call 101: For any other form of police assistance – usually described as being non-emergency. This means incidents **NOT** involving life or limb risk or where a crime or incident may have happened but those responsible are **NOT** present in the area - call 101.

Website: The Cambs Police Web Site is simple to use and offers a speedy way of reporting crimes and incidents on-line.

Crime

Top reported crimes within the Cambridgeshire police area during 2022/23 include violence and sexual offences, anti-social behaviour, vehicle crimes and theft.

Nationally Cybercrime now feels like more of a threat than physical crime for a rising number of households across England and Wales with more people either falling victim personally or knowing someone who has been a victim of online theft, according to research carried out in conjunction with Avast a cyber security leader in the UK. Phishing and Online Fraud are continuing to increase, it accounts for more than half of the UK's reported crime. Try to report all phishing – any scam email messages or telephone calls which you receive claiming to be from an official body. There is a link on the Police website to the Action Fraud website or you can report it by telephone on **0300 123 2040**.

Glynis Hammond