

Minutes of the Fen Ditton's Annual Parish Meeting held on 16th May, 2023

1. Apologies

Mark Easterfield; Dist. Cllr Cone; Graham Bloomfield

2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 21st April 2022

The Minutes of the above meeting were approved

3. Councillor introductions

The parish of Fen Ditton was split into two wards from the May 2018 elections, East (RA2/Wing) and West (RA1), with the majority of councillors now standing for the East Ward as required by the Electoral Commission.

Graham Bloomfield Marshalls Consultative; Planning & Strategic Planning; trees & conservation

Kim Butler Marshalls Consultative; cemetery; Highways and transport

George Devine Chairman Highways and Transport; website

Carla Farrar(Hofman) Crime and welfare

Vince Farrar East Crime and welfare

Charles Jones East Vice Chairman, Churchyard, Finance, Strategic planning

Edwin Lee

Mandy Marson Cemetery

Nicholas Moir Schools liaison

Anna Bradnam County Councillor

Claire Daunton County Councillor

Graham Cone – District Councillor

Carla Hofman(Farrar) District Councillor

John Williams - District Councillor

4. Report by Chairman

We continue to see the expansion of the Marleigh development in the east of the parish. More and more of the houses are being occupied and the Land Trust along with Locality are now active in helping the community to become settled and integrated with the rest of the parish.

One of the major benefits from this expanding development is the installation our new parish office. This has been up and running since March and whilst there continue to be some snagging issues we are finding the facility more and more useful. We still have to fully determine who can use the office but as this becomes more and more clear I am confident the spectrum of users will grow and widen.

I continue to struggle with our counties highways team with regard to repairs that are required to the pavements in the village and there are now some concerns over pot holes that have appeared in parts of our roads. However with the help of our County Councillor, Anna Bradnam I am now hearing some positive responses coming from the Highways Team and hopefully this will bring some tangible results this year.

Closed Church Yard

2023 should bring the long awaited refurbishment of the Closed Church Yard Wall. This has been in need of major rework for some time. Works are planned to start in June. Myself and the Clerk are arranging a site visit with the contractors to discuss the part closure of the High Street Extension whilst the work is carried out during the Bumps.

Relocation of water treatment plant

Our Vice Chairman continues to work with the Save Honey Hill group to mitigate the effects of moving the water treatment plant operated by Anglian water. The council agreed to support The Save Honey hill group finically. The group have received the first instalment of the grant and will have the second payment made in this financial year.

Crime

We had a number of reports regarding the theft of catalytic converters towards the end of 2022. This remains a concern but seems to have bated since the police made a significant arrest in Streatham earlier this year.

Speed sign

This has been moved to Church Street and we have invested in a solar panel which removes the need to constantly be changing batteries. Driver have been observed slowing down when the sign is activated. It will be moved again this year and it is set at 20mph in anticipation of our application for a reduced speed limit being accepted. There have been a number of initiatives this year where various volunteers have become involved. A group of our younger residents involved in their DofE organised a litter pick and collection for the local food bank. We also need to recognise the work done by those who organised the village picnic as part of the coronation celebrations. Can I also thank all of those people involved in the various support events running through out the years and my fellow councillors for the time they give in supporting the Parish.

5. Financial Report

The table below gives a summary of the Council' income and expenditure for the financial year to 31 March 2023 – a more detailed account is available on request.

Income	£	
Admin - precept	40173	
Cemetery	900	
Grants	1801	
Events	0	
Other	602	
Total income		43476
Expenditure		
Cemetery	1710	
Closed churchyard	1502	
Village Green	222	
Highways – verges, footpaths etc	6014	
Newsletters and publications	1220	
Administration	12157	
Recreation Ground	4815	
FDRGT grant		
Grants	2110	
Events		
Pavilion redevelopment		
Total expenditure		29750

Balance as 31 March 2023		129481
Made up as:		
s.106		41301
Allocated reserves		63075
Unallocated reserves		25105

6. Reports by County and District Councillors

District Councillor Cone:

I have been a District Councillor since 2015, first representing Fulbourn and then from 2018 the Fen Ditton and Fulbourn ward which covers eight villages Fen Ditton, Fulbourn, Great Wilbraham, Horningsea, Little Wilbraham, Six Mile Bottom, Stow cum Quy and Teversham.

At South Cambridgeshire District Council my role is as an opposition councillor and deputy leader of the Conservative group and deputy chair of Scrutiny.

As District Councillor I always try to be approachable and listen to residents' concerns. I have been involved in several local issues that residents have brought to my attention. These issues have ranged from concerns around local repair works, speeding, maintenance such as grass cutting, youth projects, streetlamps, lobbying for cycleways and answering questions on welfare and taxation. Specifically, within the ward I have made representations and worked with officers and developers on a whole range of issues such as the congestion charging and cycle greenways.

The biggest issue lately for residents to get in touch with me about is the congestion charge the reasons I have opposed this is as follows:

- Small businesses (many people will not use businesses within the Congestion Charge Zone)
- Employees (teachers, nurses, Drs, cleaners) who are often on shifts.
- Traders in vans (plumbers, electricians, decorators who would be paying £10 to enter the Congestion Charge Zone)
- People who live in the Congestion Charge Zone would have to pay to leave their property, even when exiting the zone.
- Traffic caused by people circumventing the Congestion Charge Zone, causing traffic around the outlying villages (Fulbourn and Teversham would suffer hugely being half-in and half-out of the zone).
- Has parking on the outside of the zone been considered? With change of behaviour, you will have people driving to the edge of the zone (Fen Ditton, Teversham, Fulbourn), parking on streets then getting a bus or cycling from their car to avoid paying the Congestion Charge.
- The report indicates that those on low pay would potentially get a discount but having studied the full proposals of what has been put forward, it doesn't say who would qualify for a reduced rate. I have asked this at Full Council and been left none the wiser by the Liberal Democrat Administration. Many of the correspondence I have had are from those on lower earnings who are worried about the effect this is going to have on them. We don't know if reductions will apply to someone on benefits, or someone who earns "x" amount per year, or how this will be administered (it is my view that any

form of welfare or earnings exemption would be very costly to administer in staffing costs).

- Will there really be enough buses and a stable service with the proposals put forward? It is my view that many people will still slip through the net in terms of being able to catch a bus that fits their work and social life habits.
- Addenbrookes Hospital and Papworth Hospital are within the Congestion Charge Zone. This means people visiting relatives, patients and staff, will be paying to get to Addenbrookes Hospital via car (on top of parking charges already in place).
- Will the Park and Rides have the capacity to deal with the modal shift that is predicted within the report? I still think this is questionable.
- There are no exemptions for low emissions vehicles. I have been contacted by residents that have invested in electric vehicles at a higher cost, who are not very happy that they will still have to pay the same as a non-efficient diesel / petrol vehicle.
- Mopeds and motorbikes would also have to pay the £5 Congestion Zone fee, (expect your takeaway costs to go up).
- Lorries would be charged £50 to enter or exit the city per day. If you are a business that requires a stock delivery each week or a pub that needs kegs delivered, this will be a large burden upon these businesses and inevitably the costs would be passed onto the consumer.
- The Congestion Charge runs from 7am-7pm. If you are a cleaner that starts work at 6am to get a premises ready for opening and finish work at midday, it is likely that the bus service will still not be available at 4/5am when you need to leave and you will be charged on the way out of the zone.
- Change of habits for hauliers. Due to the Congestion Charge Zone being 7am - 7pm, I would guess that lorry drivers will try and work outside of these hours to avoid the charge where possible, meaning more heavy goods vehicles at unsociable times of the day. Where lorries are delivering to villages outside of the zone, I would expect those lorries to now drive around the zone and through our villages to avoid the charge.
- We are not London with and Underground or Manchester with a Tram system, we do not have bus hubs and the GCP has sat on the money from Central Government for Cycle Greenways for years and have done very little so I have had many correspondence regarding alternatives to congestion charging like not dropping the CAM Metro scheme that had already had a lot of money spent on it, bus franchising, Uber style bus services like those that are being trialled in Huntingdon etc.

I have been proud to be involved with the Ukrainian refugee re-settlement program as Vice Chair of Scrutiny and Local Member. I am proud of the Government who has provided funding for this scheme insuring local councils have the recourses they need to deliver vital services for Ukrainian refugees. South Cambs can be very proud of the effort within this district achieving the following:

- 995 visa applications by Ukrainians (Gov data 28/02/23).
- 894 visas granted in South Cambridgeshire (Gov data 28/02/23).
- 408 hosts have received 787 Ukrainian guests into their homes.
- 914 DBS checks have been completed.

- 405 welfare visits have been made.
- 516 home checks have been completed.
- 747 payments (totalling £261,450) have been made to guests upon arrival.
- 3,353 thank you payments (totalling £980,000) have been made to hosts.
- 232 hosts are currently housing 475 guests (as of 10 March 2023).

SCDC's role covered the following areas:

- Accommodation checks – to check host accommodation was suitable.
- DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) **checks** – carried out on hosts and all people over 18 living with them. This was to ensure there was not a clear reason why a guest should not be placed with the host's family.
- Welfare checks – to ensure Ukrainian guests were settled and safe once living together.
- Payments – an initial one-off payment to guests upon arrival, and monthly 'thank you' payments to hosts.
- Data processing – to manage and process data, including daily interaction with Government databases, to ensure the smooth running of the scheme.
- Community related activities – to ensure needs of guests and hosts are considered and met using tariff funding.
- Rematching and homelessness cases – responsibility for emerging homelessness cases arising from the Homes for Ukraine Scheme if host/guest relations break down. This includes rematching to a new host where necessary.
- Communications – to keep guests, hosts, councillors, parish, and town councils, community support groups and the wider community informed and updated.

I would love to see South Cambridgeshire to continue to be one of the best places to live in the UK with huge employment opportunities and rural villages where people want to live close to a vibrant city. Our area has, in some way, become a victim of its own success as it is a hugely desirable place to live and it has a high number of large employers such as Addenbrooke's Hospital and all the businesses on the Biomedical Campus, the various science parks, companies like Arm and people like to live close to where they work.

District Councillor Hofman and Williams

About South Cambridgeshire District Council There are currently 45 councillors, representing two towns and 104 parishes and settlements. The current composition of the Council is: 35 Liberal Democrats, 9 Conservatives and 1 Independent. Fen Ditton has three District councillors (two Lib Dem and one Conservative). The Council is based at South Cambridgeshire Hall in Cambourne Business Park where full council and committee meetings are held. It has just over 600 staff including all staff employed in the Greater Cambridge Planning and Shared Waste services. For the 2023/4 financial year the Council

has a gross General Fund expenditure of over £86 million, of which £33 million has to be met from local taxation and grants. Council Tax income contributes £11 million. The biggest contributor is Business Rates at £18 million, with Government grants accounting for £3 million. As to other income, in addition to fees and charges, the Council also receives some £7 million in income from investments.

For this financial year the council raised its Council Tax by 3.1% or 10p a week for a Band D property, against a background of over 10% price inflation and 6% pay inflation. The Council also has over 5,500 council homes. The cost of managing this stock and the cost of building new council housing is ringfenced by law and has to be found from within the Housing Revenue Account which is funded mainly from council rents, which next year will amount to £34 million.

The Council has four key objectives:

- To grow local businesses and economies
- To deliver housing that is truly affordable for everyone to live in
- To be Green to its Core
- To be a modern and caring Council

To deliver these objectives it has a rolling 5-year Business Plan Action Plan and Medium Term Financial Plan, which can be found on the council website.

About Carla and John

Carla Hofman lives in Fen Ditton and has been a District Councillor since 2022. She is a Parish Councillor also. John Williams lives in Fulbourn and has been a District Councillor for Fulbourn since 2010. Since 2018 John has been the Lead Cabinet Member for Resources, delivering the money and staff needed to implement the Council's Business Plan.

What South Cambs has done since last April

- In South Cambs over 800 visas have been issued for Ukrainian refugees, more than any other District Council. Because of the way we have assisted them, which has been a blueprint followed by other authorities, the Government is paying for us to buy 40 homes for them in South Cambs which will convert to council housing when they leave.
- Over 80 new Council homes were completed. The number of new homes now exceeds those sold under Right to Buy and the stock is now back to where it was in 2012. Our target is 75 new homes a year.
- Over £600,000 has been spent on helping those struggling with the Cost of Living Crisis, including the provision of slow cookers and electric blankets and support for Warm Hubs.
- To help local businesses the Council has developed a toolkit to help parishes set up community markets to sell locally produced goods.
- Several innovative youth projects, encouraging young people into outdoor activities as a way of improving their mental and physical wellbeing, received council funding.
- South Cambridgeshire District Council's work to tackle climate change locally has been highlighted at a prestigious national awards ceremony. The Council was shortlisted for a Municipal Journal (MJ) Achievement Award in the Leadership in Responding to the Climate Emergency category.

- A second electric powered bin lorry was delivered, and work will shortly start on providing a solar farm to supply the Cambridge Shared Waste depot at Waterbeach; a third electric bin lorry is to join the fleet shortly.
- The Council funded twelve community projects in South Cambs, aimed at reducing carbon emissions and engaging communities on climate change.
- Greater Cambridge Shared Waste Service placed eight new pink collection banks for small electrical items at recycling points.
- The Council introduced grants for Electric Vehicle Charging Points at community hubs.
- South Cambridgeshire District Council successfully bid for £1.7 million Government funding, to continue work to decarbonise its council homes.
- The Council trialled a four-day week for its desk-based staff for 3 months to improve recruitment and retention, staff wellbeing and to save money on agency staff, without worsening service delivery. This delivered better than expected results and John will be recommending a further trial for a year and to include the Waste service.

Cnty Cllr. Bradnam

National

I think we will all remember 2022 as being the year in which HM Queen Elizabeth II died and in which the accession of HM King Charles III was proclaimed in Cambridge and Ely, and elsewhere in the county.

County Council

The composition of the County Council has changed, following the death of Independent Chair of the Council, Derek Giles and a Liberal Democrat being elected to that seat and a Conservative Councillor switching parties. The Council make up is currently

Conservatives 27

Liberal Democrats 22

Labour 9

Independents 3

The Joint Administration of Lib Dem, Labour and Independent councillors continues to run the council. The Agreement signed in May 2021 will be reviewed after elections in May.

I continue as a member of the County (Minerals and Waste) Planning Committee, Environment and Green Investment Committee and the Member Steering Group for Waste.

I joined the Children and Young People Committee during the year and I continue to chair the Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee. I am the County's nominee to the Police and Crime Panel and on the Conservators of the River Cam, of which I am Vice Chair.

The council's Chief Executive, Stephen Moir has been re-organising the senior staff structure, making senior appointments and gradually separating out the previous joint arrangements with Peterborough City Council.

In July 2022 the council's offices were formally opened at Alconbury Weald. It is a pleasant building to work in, although the Red Kite Room (council chamber) feels very cramped with 65 members at full council. On days when a large number of the public wish to attend some must be accommodated in a room on the ground floor with a live stream.

There is no direct public transport link from Cambridge to Alconbury Weald

Council Finances

The high rates of inflation and the confusion caused by the Truss/Kwarteng mini-budget increased the cost of providing council services and the costs of capital projects, which increased the budget gap.

The Council increased its portion of the Council Tax in February by 4.99% (2.99% for general services and 2% for adult social care). This was to ensure we could continue to provide services for adults and children, roads, infrastructure and environmental projects

Adults and Health

Nationwide changes were made during the year, creating local Integrated Care Systems which are responsible for decision making across health and social care. Cambridgeshire and Peterborough created a joint Health and Wellbeing Board.

It has become apparent how stretched and vulnerable our NHS services are, in particular, dental provision. A recent investigation by the BBC found that no dental practice in Cambridgeshire was accepting new adult patients. Residents are having to travel long distances and pay for private treatment. One resident of Ely travelled to Ukraine for dental treatment which was quicker and cheaper than that available in the UK.

Children and Young People

The council has continued to fund vouchers for those eligible for free school meals over the school holidays, along with the Holiday Activity and Food programme. This is in recognition of the impact of the Cost of Living Crisis on families.

The Council was praised by Ofsted for the work of senior leaders in Children's Services in responding to the challenge of Covid, and for maintaining continuity during structural change. Most children in need and those with a child protection plan were supported well. Looking at local Primary Schools: Milton Church of England Primary School, after an Ofsted rating of Inadequate in Sept 2021, a monitoring visit in March 2022, reported in May 2022, found that "Leaders and those responsible for governance are taking effective action towards the removal of the serious weaknesses designation. The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. The school's improvement plan is fit for purpose."

Waterbeach Community Primary School was last inspected in 2020 and was rated as Good. In April 2022 Fen Ditton Primary School continued to be rated as Good.

The council is still seeking residents who would like to make a real difference to the life of a child by becoming a foster carer.

Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND)

In a piece of good news for Cambridgeshire, the council and the Government reached agreement on the 'safety valve' process to resolve the escalating deficit in the cost of SEND education. The deficit had been expected to grow to over £90M by 2025/26 if left unchecked, and the council was not permitted to divert funding from other sources to fill the gap. Thankfully, Cambridgeshire has been awarded £49M which will be used to create 463 new special school places, with a further £11.3M in capital funding to support new SEND provision on mainstream school sites. Cambridgeshire has historically received less funding per child for education than other areas, whilst having a high proportion of SEND.

Communities, Social Mobility and Inclusion Committee (COSMIC) oversees the Household Support Fund, which supports people experiencing immediate financial hardship, to pay for food, household energy or other essential items. An increasing number of families are struggling financially at the moment. COSMIC agreed to use some of the money from the fund to give a 'payment holiday' to pensioners in arrears with their water bills.

A Warm Hubs programme over the winter was funded by the Integrated Care System and administered by Cambridgeshire ACRE (Action with Communities in Rural England), with fantastic support from volunteers in local parishes including Milton and Landbeach.

Libraries - A review of the mobile library service resulted in a number of improvements, including more stops, more fuel-efficient routes, and local storage of vehicles.

Cambridgeshire's Library@home volunteers were one of three voluntary organisations in the county to be given the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service. Waterbeach Independent Lending Library continued to offer children books and incentives to read through the Summer Reading Challenge, which keeps children reading over the summer holiday.

Photographic ID - The Government is introducing a requirement for voters to provide photographic ID at elections. This starts with the elections in East Cambridgeshire and parts of Cambridge May 2023, and will cost up to £180M over ten years, despite cases of voter identity fraud at polling stations being almost non-existent. Around two million voters in the UK do not have the right form of ID to enable them to vote—they can apply for free Voter Authority Certificates, but the application process for these is extremely slow and many people are likely to find themselves deprived of their right to vote on 4 May.

Environment

Council awarded the first spending from its Just Transition fund, including £2.175M to provide a business case for the first phase of the Council's plan for Cambridgeshire to reach Net Zero carbon by 2045. £1.75M was also awarded for flood work and nature restoration.

The County Council is working with district councils on energy retrofits in homes with poor energy efficiency.

Waste The waste disposal contract with Thalia (formerly Amey) at Waterbeach has taken a considerable amount of council time. Firstly the Environment Agency has required works to comply with new odour emission standards and secondly, in the new year, the EA enforced rules on persistent organic pollutants in waste upholstered domestic seating (POPs in WUDS). This led to a week in which the council was unable to accept unwanted furniture, which must now be incinerated not landfilled. In addition to this, discussions are also ongoing with Defra regarding proposals to introduce weekly food waste collections. South Cambs District Council has been doing a separate food waste collection trial in Milton and other locations, although this ends 31 March.

Renewable energy - The first households in Swaffham Prior are now receiving renewable energy from the new energy centre. Interest in this project has been considerable. Other energy projects (solar panels on Park & Ride sites, North Angle solar farm, and replacement of gas and oil boilers in schools and in the Council's own premises around the county) are continuing to progress. In conjunction with iChoosr the council ran another round of Solar Together, the group buying scheme for homeowners wanting to invest in solar panels and battery storage.

The Examination into the planning application by Sunnica for the large solar farm between Burwell and Red Lodge began in autumn 2022.

Water resources Anglian Water and Cambridge Water announced in autumn 2022 their preferred location for a new reservoir in the Fens, north of Chatteris, to come on stream in the late 2030s. A planning application will come in due course and progress through a number of stages. It will be a decision for the Secretary of State through the Planning Inspectorate, as with other major infrastructure schemes.

We received details of the County Council's **carbon emissions** for the year. There was a significant reduction in the early stages of the pandemic, due to construction work ceasing, but this is likely to increase again in future years.

Trees The council has published an interim Tree Strategy, which it will revise once it has baseline information about what trees the council has, where they are, and how the council can expand and improve its tree assets. The Council persuaded National Highways to review the success of its tree-planting scheme along the new A14 route. They felled 400,000, replanted 800,000 but some 600,000 have died. Around 125,000 will be replanted.

Highways and Transport

The condition of Cambridgeshire's roads and pavements remains a serious challenge. This situation has been developing for many years during which the council's approach was admitted to be one of 'managed decline'. However, recent extremely hot and extremely cold weather has speeded up that decline very significantly. The soil under roads and the tarmac itself has shrunk in hot dry weather, and expanded in wet weather causing it to crater and split. The severity of the problem is far beyond our maintenance budget, so the council has been actively engaging with the Department for Transport to seek their support and funding.

Flooding - The council used a data interpretation and modelling tool to identify a 'Safe and Dry' programme of 115 locations where work was needed to improve flood resilience, and work began on the first fifty of these locations in 2022.

The council is also undertaking a two-year programme to clean and plot all gullies and surface drainage features to improve highways drainage management into the future.

Street Lighting The council plans to fit street lighting with energy-efficient LEDs. The council spends £3.3M a year on energy for street lights, and this sum will pay back within six years.

20 mph schemes - The new funding pot has attracted numerous applications.

Greater Cambridge Partnership

Making Connections - In autumn 2022 the Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP) consulted on its proposals for improved bus provision and active travel in the Cambridge area, which in due course would be funded by a charge for driving in a 'Sustainable Travel Zone' between 7:00am and 7:00pm on weekdays. Requests for a referendum on the charge have been declined at both District and County Council, since it is not until the consultation responses have been analysed and responded to, that final proposals will be drawn up. What is clear is that action is needed to address the decades of decline in public transport inflicted by successive governments.

Waterbeach to Cambridge Busway the public consultation closed on 24 March. Feedback from this consultation will support their recommendations to the GCP Executive Board "later on in the year" for a preferred route option for the busway and a preferred location for a new P&R.

Waterbeach Greenway - we await clear plans for a preferred alignment for the route.

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA)

The Combined Authority has had a somewhat turbulent year, including an attempt to depose the elected Mayor which was unsuccessful. Most significantly, the auditors (EY) wrote to the Authority in June expressing concerns about the functioning of the Combined Authority, and the Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities has become involved, setting some clear requirements for improvement. The Combined Authority has agreed an Improvement programme with a package of external support, and an Independent Improvement Board has been established.

Buses In September 2022 the main bus operator Stagecoach gave six weeks' notice of its intention to withdraw from a large number of bus routes. The CPCA pulled together a tender process at very short notice, and was able to find new providers for most of those routes, though there have been changes in frequency and extent of several of them. Additional funding was diverted to support these routes, and the Mayor decided to levy a precept which will be added to the council tax to ensure the stability of these services for a further year. The Service 9 route between Milton and Waterbeach was not part of that rescue package and despite my direct requests, Stagecoach refused to re-instate that part of the route. I continue to seek restoration of this vital village link.

The Combined Authority needs to move ahead with a system of franchising of local bus services, which would give democratic control of routes, timetables, and fares, but it needs large amounts of income, and it would take around five years to implement. Meanwhile the Combined Authority is finalising a Bus Strategy for submission to Government.

The CP Combined Authority remains starved of resources by the Government compared to other Combined Authorities. It received no money for its Bus Service Improvement Plan and very little active travel funding. The Government also decided there would be no more money for affordable housing for any Combined Authorities.

7. Representatives of the Parish Council

Townlands Charity

Fen Ditton's Townlands Charity was drawn up in 1908 to raise money for the poor and needy in the village of Fen Ditton and to also give support with the upkeep of the Church. It consists of three charities:-

- the Estate Charity which generates income for the two other charities;
- the Parochial Charity which supports individual people in need in the village or contributes towards something for the whole village;
- the Ecclesiastical Charity which gives support with the upkeep of the Church but not the Chancel.

The Townlands' income is raised by letting out Osier Holt (the field at the end of Green End) and the small stable area (at the end of Field Lane) for grazing over 10 months of the year, letting it out for two weeks each summer, in June and July, for the University and Town Bumps, and from dividends generated by the Charity's COIF investments.

Trustees

The trustees of the charity are Laurie Woolfenden (PC representative), Lizzie Wieser (PC representative), Jenny Dawson (PC representative trustee), Jenny Parr (PC representative) and Sue Buttery (Ex-Officio trustee). All the trustees reside in Fen Ditton.

Estate Charity

This past year has been a spending year for the charity. Necessary tree works, grass spraying and cutting, plus fencing work was carried out. We also reinstated the missing section of the boundary hedgerow on the south side of the field. We approached Carbon Footprint for the hedging whips; these have taken nicely and are growing well.

Osier Holt and Bumps rowing races

The trustees have agreed with Fitzwilliam College Billygoats Rowing Club and the Cambridgeshire Rowing Association to rent out the field again this summer for the University and Town Bumps events which will be held in June and July respectively.

The hemlock issue we had last year has all but gone now as the trustees continue to be vigilant, working hard to eradicate it by regular inspection, digging up any seedlings, spraying the area and mowing it.

We are very pleased to have finally secured an experienced horse grazier for the field and stables. It is good to have horses on the field again.

Anglian Water

Sadly, there was another sewerage leak in Osier Holt in January this year – quite a large area of the field was contaminated. Anglian Water attended relatively quickly and repaired the pipe. The new date to start work to replace the rising main which runs from the pumping station to, and under, the river to the current water treatment plant, is now expected to start in November 2023.

Parochial Charity

This year the trust was once again able to contribute towards a resident's personal alarm. By doing so, it has enabled the resident to continue to stay at home. If anyone knows of someone needing financial support, where the statutory authorities cannot help, please contact the Trustee/Secretary, Jenny Parr, on 01223 295641 or email townlandsfenditton@gmail.com or by letter to 34, Green End, Fen Ditton CB5 8SX.

Finance

The closing balance of the Lloyds Estate Account at 31st March 2023 was £5,160.65

The closing balance of the Lloyds Parochial Account at 31st March 2023 was £2,200.38.

Quy Fen Trust

Quy Fen Trust Report for Fen Ditton Annual Meeting 2023

Bill Watts, long standing chairman of Quy Fen Trust, advised at the November 2022 trustee meeting that he planned to stand down in 2023. At the February 2023 meeting, Matthew Asplin was elected as the new chairman of the Trust. Bill remains a trustee.

The balance of Fen Ditton's funds, as of the Trust's most recent meeting, which was held on 6 February, is £1380.40.

As in previous years the trustees agreed to continue with the maintenance work of topping, hedge cutting, post and fence maintenance. Additionally, three willow trees have been pollarded.

At the February meeting, the grazier agreement/licence with the existing post-holder was renewed for 2023. It was also agreed that they will continue as warden.

Vehicular access to Quy Fen from Horningsea Road remains problematic. The Trust was advised by a solicitor to register the land of Quy Fen. Work is underway to achieve this.

The Trust agreed a grant of £2000 to the Save Honey Hill group to support its campaign to challenge the proposed CWWTPR from Cowley Road to Honey Hill and to seek the best possible mitigation for the surrounding area should the proposal go ahead.

Fen Ditton Recreation Ground Trust

The Recreation Ground Trust continues to be managed by the Parish Council as the sole Trustee, who meet at dedicated Trust meetings. Income/Finance

Parking for the May and Town Bumps raised £2313.55 and net income from the Fireworks event was £1324.24 .

The Parish Council maintain the recreation ground

As at 31st March 2023 the bank balances of the Trust are £37146.60 of which £33490.72 is ring fenced for the development of the pavilion

The total income for the Trust was £5696.78 and the expenditure was £1245.67

Play Equipment

The RoSPA report were carried out and no significant defects were reported. An application to SCDC Community Chest – Platinum Jubilee- has provided a The disabled access picnic bench, made from 1904 recycled plastic milk bottles, to be sited in the play area purchased with a grant from SCDC to commemorate the Platinum Jubilee has been installed

Pavilion Re-development Project Planning

Pre -planning advice has been sought and a further pre planning advice application has been submitted soon for a sports pavilion with community facilities. SCDC approve of the design but needed justification for the community space and increased area all of which is included in the second application. Along with the allocated sum in the Council's account there is currently funding of almost £100,000 with external funding sources being worked on.

Other activities

The pavilion is currently used by Fen Ditton Cricket Club and Northstowe Cricket Club and the Coffee Pot and Boules in the summer. The recreation ground is used by a fitness group who are charged on a three monthly basis and most recently the Trust were pleased to be able facilitate Ramadan for a group

Willys Almhouse

No report had been received.

Elizabeth March Foundation

The balance of £25.14 had been paid to Fen Ditton school and the Charity closed