

A meeting of Croydon Parish Council was held on Wednesday 16 January 2008 in the Reading Room at 8.00pm.

Apologies: Mr Sole – unwell, Cllr Elsby – away.

Present: Mr Martin, Mrs Hurst, Mr Wittey, Mr Friend (arrived later), Mr Wheeler, Mr Hancock, Cllr Kindersley, one member of public and the Clerk.

Minutes: of the last meeting, previously circulated, were agreed and signed.

Matters Arising:

Footpath 11: A reply has been received from Mr Sapsed, who feels that there are enough other footpaths in the vicinity that could be used without moving this one. He also felt that walkers did not keep to the footpaths that are there and walked all over the field “as though they owned it.” If a gate is to be added, Mr Sapsed stated that he preferred the kissing gate style to the self-closing gate, because it didn’t close properly. Mr Stimpson at CCC had given the impression to the clerk during a telephone conversation, that the landowners were sympathetic to the repositioning of the footpath. Clerk will write to him with a copy of Mr Sapsed’s letter.

Footpath Cutter: Awaiting information.

High Street Sign: Acknowledgement of Council’s request for a new High Street sign has been received.

B1042 junction with Larkins Road: The road is breaking up again. Cllr Kindersley to be approached to see if there is a chance of getting any repairs carried out.

Village Matters:

Footpath 7/23: After a short discussion on the merits of completing the circular route by rejoining footpaths 7 and 23, Council felt so few Croydon people would use the path that it was not the best use of public money. It was proposed by Mrs Hurst and seconded by Mr Wittey that clerk should write to Arrington with this decision. All in favour.

Cemetery: John Cobbs contacted the clerk and a site meeting has been arranged for Thursday 17 January 2008. Mr Sole will meet with the representatives from John Cobbs and make the final arrangements prior to the commencement of work. Mr Sapsed will also attend the meeting.

Dog Bins: No response from SCDC received yet. Clerk will write again, to Stuart Harwood-Clark.

4 x 4 days: The Planning Enforcement Officers from SCDC have issued a planning contravention notice, the results of which are awaited.

Allotments: Mrs Whittaker and Mrs Friend have asked for allotments. The Chairman said that money to purchase a site would have to be raised through the precept, so everyone pays for the allotments, even though they may not be the least bit interested.

Milestones: Mr Jenkins not interested in becoming a milestone conservator. Mr Friend will try and find the milestones.

Village Fete: Mr Friend will call a meeting to try and gauge the amount of support from the village.

Reports from Cllr Kindersley

SCDC: The inspectors are returning to SCDC to see whether the “adequate” standard has been improved. Council housing – the Cabinet has said it wants to dispose of council housing, before the tenants panel has had a chance to vote. Savills has advised SCDC that it will have to spend £57,000 per council property over the next 10-15 years. South Cambs is not building houses fast enough and therefore has been allocated a further 1,000 – 2,000 houses.

CCC: Has a new chief executive. He has come from Durham and was responsible for setting up the Unitary Authority there. The Government funding for County is the lowest ever, and actually amounts to a reduction. This will be reflected in services. The application for Northstowe is so large it is on a series of discs. There is likely to be a second new town at Waterbeach by 2016 and a wind farm is proposed for Eversden.

Miscellaneous Information:

Anyone who feels they are in danger of flooding should ring SCDC and ask for sandbags, which will be delivered very quickly. Seven Mile Bank, where around £350,000 worth of speed cameras were recently installed, has just fallen into the river taking all the equipment with it.

Complaints have been received about helicopters at Top Farm, and the number of planes there, which is reported as being well above the planning limit of six. Enforcement Officers are aware of the problem.

There will be a meeting of the Police Panel at Orwell Village Hall on 23 January, starting at 7.30pm. Mr Friend will attend for Croydon. In spite of requests from every parish at the last police panel meeting, no speed checks appear to have been carried out in Croydon or in any of Cllr Kindersley's parishes. Two new PCSOs have been appointed to replace Becca and Karla. There has been an outbreak of distraction burglaries – the burglars are now posing as police officers, but not wearing uniform. Houses targeted are usually detached and isolated. Guns have been stolen as well as money.

Wysing Arts has been refurbished at a total of £1.7m and re-opens on 19 January. Cllr Kindersley reiterated the importance of filling in the Planning Dispensation forms as soon as possible.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Kindersley for his report. Cllr Kindersley left the meeting.

Correspondence:

Site Specific Policies: Cambourne – clerk to reply using the on-line form. Traffic increase on the A1198. Inadequate infrastructure to support all the extra families – not enough schools, doctors, dentists, hospitals etc. This has already had an impact on the established communities. Cambourne does not stand alone as a sustainable community – there needs to be far more facilities there. Proposed Chairman, seconded Mr Friend, all in favour.

Comberton VC Governors Consultation: The Governors want the college to expand to accommodate some of the children from Cambourne. They also want to build a satellite “Comberton Village College” at Cambourne.

Rubbish: Complaints have been received about rubbish left in “Mrs Smith’s lay-by.” As this is private land there is nothing that can be done about this.

CALC AGM: Will be held on Saturday 2 February at Bluntisham, with lunch. No-one is available to attend.

CPRE Planning Workshop: Mr Martin has already attended one of these and found it very interesting. No-one available to attend on Saturday 1 March.

Planning:

The Barn, Lower Road: A planning application for a new access to the property was received. After consideration it was proposed by Mr Martin and seconded by Mr Wittey that “No objections in principle” be returned. All in favour.

Finance:

Barclays: Bank statement for October - December received. Balance at 28.12.07 was £2202 - 02.

ACRE: Request for subs of £25-00 received. It was proposed by the Chairman and seconded by Mrs Hurst that a cheque for £25-00 for ACRE should be signed. All in favour.

Precept: The precept form with current balances and annual expenditure to date had already been circulated to councillors. After some discussion the following amounts were precepted :-

Insurance	£ 475 - 00
Rent	£ 150 - 00
Clerk	£1200 - 00
Audit	£ 80 - 00
Subs	£ 75 - 00
Cemetery/Village	£ 500 - 00
Website	£ 600 - 00

Total precept for 2008 – 2009 is £ 3080 - 00. Clerk will write to SCDC with the request.

Items for next agenda:

“Speed bump” in the High Street (subsiding road). Complaints being received from the locality about the noise of vehicles and lorries going over it. Nearby buildings shaking!

Date of next meeting - Wednesday 20 February 2008 in the Reading Room at 8.00pm.

As there was no further business the meeting closed at 9.27pm.

Signed

Date